Gov't asks Misuari to explain Moro 'republic'

STORY ON PAGE A2

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Truckloads of Tondo youths rounded up

By Volt Contreras, Jerome Aning and Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

MEMORIES of an unlamented repressive era came flooding back for many residents of Tondo, Manila, Thursday night after about "seven to 10 truckloads of people" were hauled off apparently without arrest warrants by policemen and

TRUCKLOADS/ A4

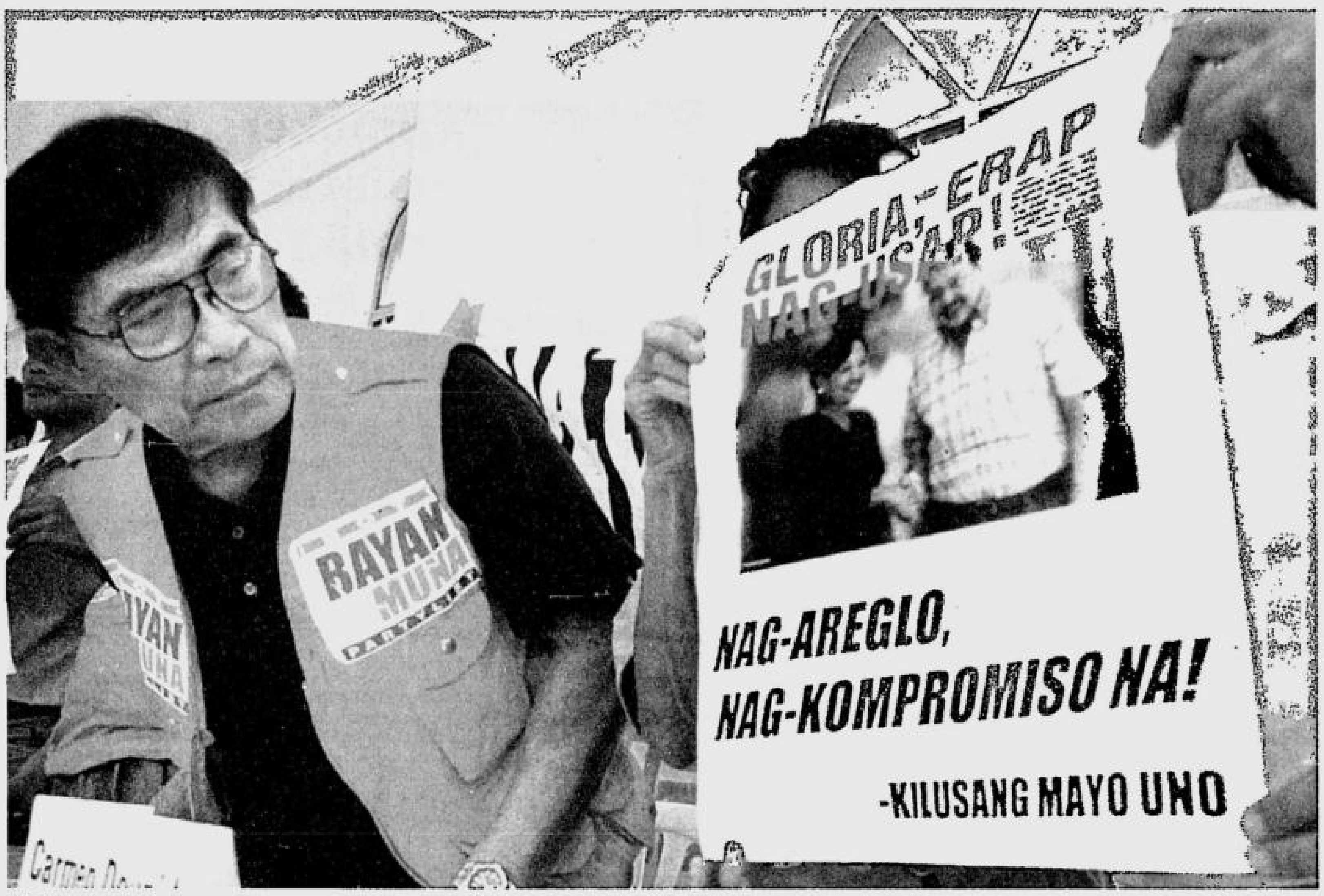
IN *Saturday*SPECIAL

- Donita Rose stars in 'Larawan' series
- Julie Andrews copes with loss of singing voice
- Anggun's songs are full of tranquility and vulnerability

DONITA ROSE

Palace confirms plot to kill Gloria, Estrada

Assassinations allegedly intended to install Enrile president



GLORIA-ERAP NAG-USAP!
NAG-AREGLO, NAG-KOMPROMISO NA!
-KILUSANG MAYO UNO
BAYAN MUNA

WITH unconcealed scorn, Kilusang Mayo Uno chair, Crispin Beltran, looks at the object of the militant group's protest as they distrust the Palace statement that the President and ex-President merely talked of rice cakes and curtains.

ROGER MARGALLO

By Christine Herrera

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo "definitely" believes there was an opposition plot to assassinate her and Joseph Estrada during the Labor Day attack on the Palace by Estrada supporters, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said yesterday.

Tiglao told Agence France Presse that the government had received intelligence reports "that in the confusion, a team would assassinate the President."

He added: "At the same time, and that is why Estrada was immediately airlifted (from Veterans hospital in Quezon City to his detention center in Laguna), another group would try to rescue him, and in the confusion Estrada would be killed."

Tiglao said a "junta-type of a council" would have been formed to take control.

Asked whether Ms Macapagal believed there had been a plot to kill her and her predecessor, Tiglao told Reuters: "Yes, definitely."

The Philippine National Police has six witnesses and intelligence information to prove in court that opposition leaders plotted to overthrow the government, Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, chief of PNP Intelligence Group, revealed.

PALACE/ A15

SC asked to annul state of rebellion

By Cathy Yamsuan, Armand N. Nocum and Rocky Nazareno

THE OPPOSITION'S Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) yesterday asked the Supreme Court to "annul" President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of a "state of rebellion" in Metro Manila despite the President's decision to lift the order Sunday night.

Ms Macapagal had earlier announced that she would lift the state of rebellion on Monday.

In an impromptu briefing, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the lifting of Proclamation No. 38 was aimed at showing normalcy in the country.

"We need the perception of a state of normalcy . . . So we're beginning to go back to normalcy," Tiglao said. He admitted that a state of rebellion might affect the country's image abroad.

In a 26-page petition, LDP general counsel Aleta Tolentino said the declaration and the order of Justice Secretary Hernando Perez to arrest allies of jailed ousted President Joseph Estrada were unconstitutional.

Tolentino also claimed that the twin moves were aimed at pulling down the chances of opposition senatorial candidates of winning in the May 14 elections.

The LDP lawyer asked the high court to bar the Philippine National Police, Armed Forces of the Philippines and Department of Justice from enforcing any arrest order issued by Perez, particularly those not accompanied by a court-issued warrant.

SC ASKED/ A15

Gringo says he's ready to die

By Rocky Nazareno and Carlito Pablo

SEN. Gregorio Honasan yesterday declared he was "ready to die" than be arrested by authorities for allegedly being among those who plotted to topple the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In a phone call made to reporters at the Senate press office, Honasan said in Filipino: "If they arrest me and I get killed, then that's okay. There is absolutely no basis for charging me with anything, not even rebellion."

He added: "If given a choice, I will not resist. That's too much because we're not looking for a fight here. We're only searching for the truth."

Honasan, who, along with Panfilo Lacson, another alleged coup plotter, is being hunted by the Philippine National Police, also said he was "being protected by the Young Officers Union."

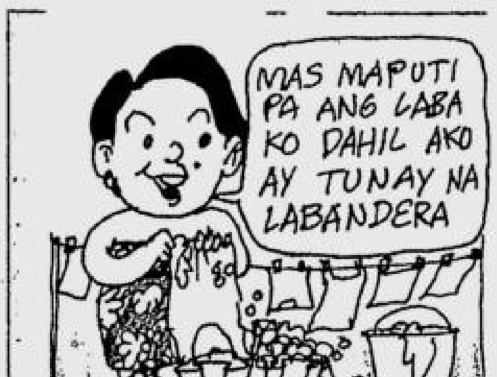
"I am not with Ping," he said of the ex-chief of the PNP.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday told reporters in Camp Aguinaldo that overtures had been made for Lacson's surrender.

"I received feelers from third parties that should Lacson wish to surrender, would I be amenable to take him into custody, and I said yes," Reyes said.

He did not identify who these "third parties"

GRINGO/ A4



MAS MAPUTI PA ANG LABA KO DAHIL AKO AY TUNAY NA LABANDERA

Gloria Labandera loves ditty

By Juliet L. Javellana and Armand N. Nocum

FAR FROM being offended by the "Gloria Labandera" ditty sung by supporters of jailed ex-president Joseph Estrada, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday thanked them and said that laundering was in her blood.

"I'm proud of the fact that my grandmother was in fact a laundrywoman," she told reporters.

"My father (the late former president Diosdado Macapagal) came from a family of poor farm workers and my

GLORIA/ A15

Miriam's gun display raises Nani's eyebrows

By Cathy C. Yamsuan and Norman Bordadora

SEN. Miriam Defensor-Santiago knew she was not going to be arrested, so why did she have to display a gun that she would supposedly use in resisting arrest?

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez yesterday said he was surprised to see Santiago Thursday night on television showing reporters a 9mm Sig-Sauer semiautomatic pistol on her desk—a gesture that he described as "totally unnecessary."

Santiago is allegedly one of Joseph Estrada's supporters who plotted to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo. Director General Leandro Mendoza, chief of the Philippine National Police, ordered her arrest on Thursday.

Perez said, however, that the government had sent an assurance through Santiago's brother, Philippine Air Force chief Gen. Benjamin Defensor, that the Puwersa ng Masa (PnM) candidate would not be taken in.

"We have already advised her brother about (this decision) so I presume she knows that," Perez said in Taglish at a news conference.

Specifically, Perez said the government had assured Defensor that his sister would not be

MIRIAM/ A5

Lawyer says Erap was just being courteous to Gloria

By Volt Contreras

DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada was merely being "courteous" when he addressed Gloria Macapagal- Arroyo as "Madame President" during her visit to his holding quarters in Sta. Rosa, Laguna on Wednesday, according to one of Estrada's lawyers.

It "meant nothing," lawyer Raymond Fortun yesterday said.

Fortun said his client was merely reciprocating Ms Macapagal's kind gesture of referring to Estrada as "President."

Paraphrasing the jailed former President, Fortun said Estrada would have addressed Ms Macapagal "differently" had she addressed him as "former President."

"*Alangan namang tawagin niyang mahal na* acting *na Pangulo si* Ginang Macapagal-Ar-

LAWYER/ A4

1ST PLUNDER CONVICTION

Ex-BIR cashier gets 2 life terms

ROMY HOMILLADA

DOMINGA MANALILI has the distinction of being the first Filipino convicted of economic plunder.

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

IN A PREVIEW of what former President Joseph Estrada could face, a cashier of the Bureau of Internal Revenue(BIR) was sentenced yesterday by the Quezon City Regional Court to two life terms for economic plunder.

Dominga Manalili is the first person convicted of plunder since the offense was established 10 years ago.

She was found guilty of two counts of plunder for opening two bank accounts where she diverted and withdrew more than P260 million in withholding tax payments of government and private employees from 1996 to 1997.

Under the law passed in 1991, plunder is defined as a series of criminal acts leading to the accumulation of at least P50 million in ill-gotten wealth. When the death penalty law took effect in 1994, plunder was included among the heinous crimes punishable by death.

RTC Branch 95 Judge Diosdado Peralta said Manalili escaped the death penalty because there were no aggravating circumstances.

"In these two cases of plunder, the only aggravating circumstance alleged in both informations is the aggravating circumstance of 'taking advantage of public position. Other than this aggravating circumstance, no other aggravating circumstance was proved and established by the prosecution," the court pointed out.

He explained that "taking ad-

EX-BIR/ A5

DAPAT MAIPALIWANAG ANG RESOLUSYONG ITO!

'BANGSAMORO REPUBLIC'

Gov't asks Misuari to explain

DEFENSE Secretary Angelo Reyes and Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao yesterday called on Nur Misuari, the governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, to explain the reported declaration of a so-called "Bangsamoro Republic," with him as its "first president," by the Moro National Liberation Front.

"I have received a copy of the declaration and I went over it and I think we have to clarify from Misuari what he really means," Reyes told reporters in Camp Aguinaldo yesterday.

"We are asking him to explain this declaration considering that he is still the governor of ARMM," said Tiglao.

The MNLF, the main Muslim secessionist movement in Mindanao, which Misuari led, had accepted regional autonomy and concluded a peace agreement with the government in 1996. Misuari was subsequently elected governor of the four-province ARMM and chair of the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development.

Mahendra Madjilon, the ARMM information chief, confirmed that the 4th Bangsamoro People's National Congress (BPNC) attended by 2,000 Muslim, Christian and Highlander delegates from all over Mindanao had approved the independence resolution.

The congress, which was held in a mountaintop village of Zamboanga City from April 29 to 30, said the Bangsamoro Republic would be composed of the 10 cities and 14 provinces in Mindanao included in the 1976 Tripoli Agreement.

"We have to hear it directly from him (Misuari) and what it exactly means because he is a government official," Reyes said.

Asked for an interpretation of Misuari's move, Reyes said: "Well, you can interpret it in several ways. It could be serious, it could be posturing."

Misuari, who is also the government's special envoy to the Organization of Islamic Conference, is reported to have invited the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the other major Muslim secessionist group, to join the newly declared republic.

The MILF, a breakaway faction of the MNLF, is set to begin peace talks with the government soon.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said the group welcomed the new development "as a more potent force to persuade the government to yield to the Bangsamoro people's longtime demand for total independence."

Misuari said the MNLF and the MILF had been separated because the MNLF chose the path of autonomy and the MILF, independence.

"But, now there is no reason that we cannot be united," he said.

MNLF spokesperson Absalom Cervesa clarified that the declaration of "Bangsamoro independence" has nothing to do with the "state of rebellion" in Metro Manila.

MISUARI: 'First president'

He explained that the congress was called to consult people ahead of a tripartite meeting between the government, the MNLF and the OIC to discuss a new time frame for the full implementation of the 1996 peace agreement.

He said the MNLF would inform the OIC of the independence declaration when it meets its representatives in late May or June.

He said the MNLF has also been commissioned by the congress to bring to the attention of the United Nations its petition for "decolonization."

Cervesa said the move to declare a "Bangsamoro Republic" was not seditious because "the right of the people to self-determination is guaranteed in the UN Charter."

ARMM Executive Secretary Abdurahman Amin said he supports the move because the aspirations of the people in Mindanao to live in peace and prosperity have not been fully attained.

"Enough is enough. We have waited too long. Our people are marginalized, our areas have been the subject of all-out war and almost totally devastated," Amin said.

Misuari, whom delegates to the two-day congress addressed as "Mr. President," was said to have told the participants: "You have just written the first step to the history of the Bangsamoro people in the contemporary world."

He told them he considered the position a "heavy burden," which could be made lighter if all BPNC delegates would convince other Mindanaoans to support the resolution. *Reports from Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Carlito Pablo and Armand Nocum, Metro Manila*

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SMC ROW

PCGG pins hopes on SC to stop Danding

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government is pinning its last hopes on the Supreme Court for it to be able to wrest control of the San Miguel Corp. board from allies of deposed President Joseph Estrada, led by controversial businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

PCGG acting chair Jorge Sarmiento said only the high court can remove the five Estrada appointees from the SMC board after they were reelected in last Thursday's stockholders' meeting.

"We have no other legal remedy," Sarmiento said. "We have filed the petition to remove the five Estrada appointees, so it's now up to the Supreme Court."

The PCGG has sought the removal of Estrada's brother-in-law Raul de Guzman, Allan Lee, Espiridion Laxa, Benjamin Paulino and Hermogenes Tantoco. The four have refused to relinquish their SMC board seats as government representatives.

The Macapagal administration needs to appoint representatives for it to unseat Cojuangco and install a new chair.

"We want in the (SMC) board people who enjoy the trust and confidence of the government," Sarmiento said. "Isn't it ironic that they (Estrada appointees) are supposed to be representing you and you do not want them there to represent you?"

Sarmiento denied reports that the PCGG resolution lifting the sequestration on the disputed 27 percent SMC shares acquired through coco levy funds had derailed government efforts to take the SMC from Cojuangco.

He produced a copy of a PCGG resolution superseding the earlier resolution which had been drafted to facilitate the creation of an Estrada pet project, the coco levy trust fund. The second resolution effectively blocked the lifting of the sequestration, he said.

In Lucena City, coconut farmers lamented Cojuangco's continued control of the food and beverage giant and blamed the administration for its "half-hearted efforts" to recover the multibillion-peso coco levy funds.

Rene Cerilla, president of Ugnayan ng mga Magsasaka sa Quezon or Ugma-Quezon, accused the government of selling out the interest of the farmers at the SMC board meeting on Thursday where Cojuangco and his allied Coconut Industry Investment Fund regained control of 15 board seats.

"The government once more offered our bodies and souls to the coconut Mafia," Cerilla said. *With a report from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Comelec ready, says Benipayo

By Gerald Lacuarta

ALL ballots for an estimated 37 million voters and election returns for 234,000 precincts nationwide have been printed and ready to be shipped out, Commission on Elections chair Alfredo Benipayo said yesterday 10 days before the May 14 elections.

"We are prepared, what we are doing now are just mopping up operations," Benipayo told reporters after a forum of the Makati Business Club at the Dusit Hotel.

Benipayo told the MBC that the National Printing Office had already printed and delivered to the Comelec 37,421,054 ballots which represent about 99.8 percent of the total ballots needed for the elections.

Benipayo said the printing of election returns at a highly secured private printer was already 100 percent complete.

"All that remains is for the returns to be packed and shipped," Benipayo said. "We expect that by the 8th of May, shipping will have already been completed."

"These and other documents, once they are received from the presses, are immediately verified, packed and shipped by teams of workers working 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including holidays." he added.

Benipayo also reported that the Comelec has in its possession the 172,374 ballot boxes which were released by the Senate Electoral Tribunal following the decision of former Bulacan Gov. Roberto Pagdanganan and former Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman to withdraw their election protests against Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr and Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta.

The ballot boxes represent close to 60 percent of the 270,000 ballot boxes needed for the May elections.

Benipayo said the Comelec has completed the delivery of ballot boxes to the provinces. In Metro Manila, the deliveries are scheduled to be completed next week.

After his speech at the MBC forum, Benipayo proceeded to Camp Aguinaldo to deliver P125 million in checks to the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine National Police to cover expenses for security operations in the May 14 elections.

Benipayo said P55 million will go to the AFP and P70 million to the PNP. The poll body had recently decided to mobilize 1,500 AFP reservists for poll duty in areas with peace and order problems.

Pilar lecture set at National Museum

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THE WORKS of "turn of the century" painters like Lozano, Malantic, Asuncion and Flores will be the subject of a lecture on May 12 at the National Museum by art historian Santiago Albano Pilar.

Pilar, a University of the Philippines professor, will discuss the miniaturist techniques of these artists who were all products of the Escuela Superior de Pintura, Grabado y Escultura.

Sponsored by the Museum Foundation of the Philippines, the National Museum and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, the lecture will start at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 12, at the Tambunting Villonco Hall, Museum of the Filipino People (the old Finance Bldg).

Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. Fee includes museum tour and refreshments. Discounts available for members and employees of the sponsoring institutions and students. Call Joy Fojas at 819-0046 for further information.

Smokers Night: Gloria parties with soldiers

By Carlito Pablo

BEER and rum flowed as President Macapagal-Arroyo and husband Mike partied with troops Thursday night at the Camp Aguinaldo grounds to celebrate the government's victory against power grabbers.

Tables laden with food were laid out at the floodlit parade grounds, while performers like movie starlet Ramona Rivilla, circus acts and dance groups entertained troops sprawled on the grass for an evening dubbed as "Smokers Night."

Soldiers serenaded the President who exuded power and confidence after having survived the first major threat to her administration.

Across the field were silhouettes of the 105 mm cannons, armored fighting vehicles and MG-520 attack choppers and Huey helicopters all ready for action.

An Army captain explained: "Smokers Night is part of military tradition where troops and officers celebrate together after a successful major operation."

In her brief remarks, President Macapagal lavished the troops with praises, describing them as "my heroes."

Referring to the military's role in Edsa 2 and in quelling the recent power grab attempt, the President said: "It is the second time that you have saved democracy."

"Never did I doubt your loyalty. Never did I doubt that you will win," Ms Macapagal said to the cheers of the soldiers.

She also shook hands with the soldiers who were treated to a packed dinner of fried chicken and vegetables.

The military top brass came in full force including officers who have been linked to alleged plots to topple the government, namely Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor Jr. and Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Librado Ladia.

Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva presented to a beaming President Macapagal commanders and units who "laid their lives for you."

Ms Macapagal told the troops that their chief of staff was her "phone pal" during the critical hours of the early morning of May 1 when supporters of ousted president Joseph Estrada attacked the Palace.

In introducing the President, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes described her as "cool, calm and decisive."

As of Thursday nights, the AFP started reducing the number of troops in Metro Manila, starting with the redeployment of the 16th Infantry Battalion.

The security status of red alert, however, remained in force.

For example, a contingent of Army men backed by an armored vehicle was at the corner of Ayala and Gil Puyat avenues in Makati early dawn yesterday.

In an interview yesterday at Camp Aguinaldo, Reyes said: "I think we're over the hump."

Kapatid foundation established to help policemen, soldiers

SAYING they were inspired by the heroic effort of the men in uniform in beating back protesters from Malacañang's gates May 1, members of the business community and the private sector have put up a foundation to help soldiers and policemen financially and in other ways.

Called "Kapatid . . . Kasama Mo Ako," founding member Arthur Antonino said initially the foundation would create alternative sources of income for military and police families, set up a fund for their medical expenses and work to improve their living and working conditions.

"As the military and police defend us, so must we take care of them. It is only just," Paul Gueco, another founding member, said.

Liza Gokongwei said the foundation will also establish a drug rehabilitation program, noting that drug abuse was not only a problem of the rich and the middle class.

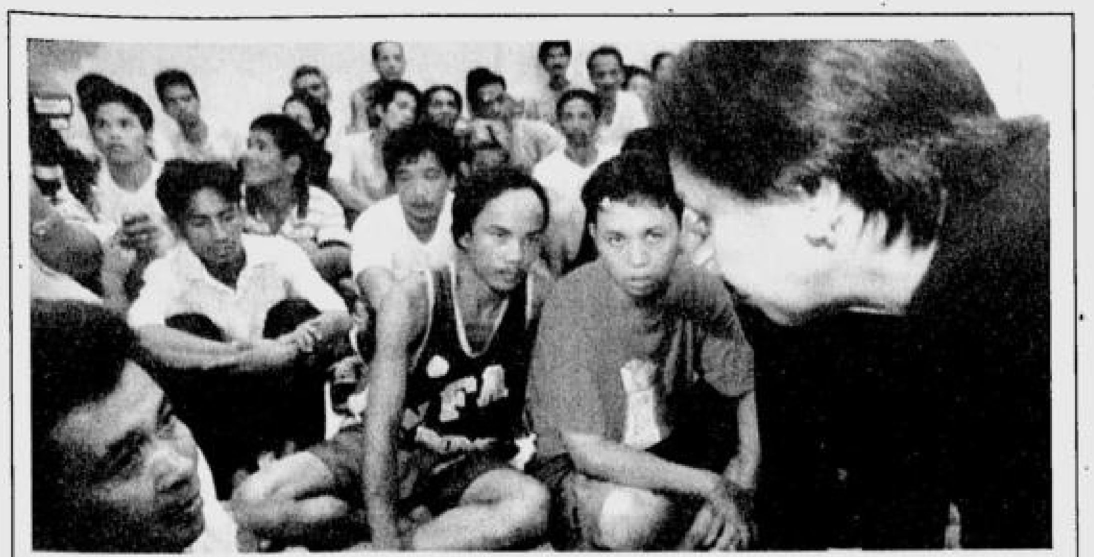
Gokongwei said the foundation will also establish education and skills training for adults and give scholarships to youth who show promise and commitment.

"We want to lick this stigma of Filipinos being lazy once and for all. We are not lazy, we're just not given the same opportunities," Antonino said.

Despite stiff resistance, Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines and police personnel fought back the mob of thousands that attacked the Presidential Palace reportedly at the instigation of opposition figures allied with deposed President Joseph Estrada.

The assault and the gallant effort by the security troops were seen on nationwide TV, changing the poor perception many of the public had of the nation's armed forces.

Stockbroker Vivian Yuchengco dubbed the foundation "the KKK of the new millennium," and singer Timmy Cruz has even composed a song for it called "Kapatid."



GLORIA AMONG LOYALISTS RANDY HORMILLOSA

President Macapagal makes a surprise visit on 64 Estrada supporters detained at the Western Police District. The President arrived around 11 o'clock Thursday night and engaged the prisoners in casual talk, portions of which were aired live by radio stations.

JV, Jude face rebellion raps; 2 mayors, too

By Norman Bordadora

HALF-BROTHERS JV Ejercito and Jude Estrada, the sons of jailed former President Joseph Estrada, are facing charges of rebellion after a video footage and eyewitness accounts showed the two among the rioters that marched from the Edsa Shrine to Malacañang to demand the ouster of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said similar charges are being studied against two mayors for their alleged involvement in the foiled attempt by forces identified with Estrada to seize power and establish a civilian-military junta.

He would not say whether the mayors are from Metro Manila or from the provinces.

"We are in the process of evaluating the evidence against JV Ejercito and Jude Estrada. We will file the appropriate charges after we have carefully weighed the evidence of their participation (in the march to Malacañang)," Tiglao said.

He said the evidence against the two mayors indicated their participation in the events of last week went deeper than just helping to gathering and instigating the crowd at Edsa.

Tiglao hinted they may have also actively participated in the armed component of the failed power grab.

"I cannot reveal their names yet because of the delicate nature of their case. They did not only lead in instigating the crowd to march toward Malacañang," Tiglao said at the Ciudad Fernandina forum yesterday.

Investigators are closely scrutinizing the cases of the two local officials and could come up with the appropriate charges in the next few days.

An exclusive video footage by the GMA Network showed Jude Estrada, a commissioned officer in the Philippine Air Force, among the pro-Estrada crowd that marched toward Malacañang on the morning of May 1.

He was wearing a blue shirt with a white towel draped around his neck. He was also caught in the video frequently talking with somebody over his cellular phone.

JV Ejercito, a mayoralty candidate in San Juan, was seen by eyewitnesses in the Sta. Mesa area just before the rioters laid siege to Malacañang.

Reports also said that Ejercito was also caught on video just before the march reached Malacañang.

The half-brothers, however, reportedly pulled out of the march near the Mendiola Bridge.

BEAUTY TILT

Miss Philippines Zorayda Ruth Andam models her national dress during the Miss Universe 2001 costume show in Santurce, Puerto Rico Wednesday. REUTERS

Imelda won't visit Erap

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TOLOSA, Leyte—If jailed President Joseph Estrada is expecting a visit from his friend, former first lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos, he'd better forget it.

The wife of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos has no plans of visiting him at his detention center in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, because she might be implicated in the attempted power grab by Estrada's allies.

"Though it pains me to see President Estrada (in jail), still I will not visit him (because) I might be accused of (being) part of the conspiracy (to topple the Macapagal administration)," she told the INQUIRER.

"And at this point, I cannot afford to (get) myself in trouble. I have so many problems," she added.

Ms Marcos said that it has been six months since she last saw Estrada.

The last time was in November last year when Estrada, then president, attended the birthday celebration of Ms Marcos' eldest daughter, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos.

But Ms Marcos lauded the surprise visit made by President Gloria Macapagal-Aroyo on her jailed predecessor.

"It was a conciliatory act on her (Ms Macapagal's) part," she said, without elaborating.

Ms Marcos, however, declined to comment when asked if the Macapagal administration was fair to Estrada.

She also kept mum when asked if she could see herself put behind bars like Estrada.

More troubles for Ping: NBI files kidnap-slay raps

By Cathy C. Yamsuan

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation has recommended the filing of kidnap and murder charges against former national police chief Panfilo Lacson and 13 other officers for acts committed against seven Chinese nationals in 1999.

NBI Special Agent Eric S. Quintos said the charges were based mainly on statements made by former narcotics agent Mary Ong, who admitted participating in the crimes allegedly committed when Lacson was head of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

To be charged with Lacson are Sr. Supt. Reynaldo Acop, Supts. John Campos, Teofilo Andrada, Michael Ray Aquino and a certain Villaroman, Insps. Avelino Abogado and Meddel Fone, Dennis Ventura, Ricardo Watanabe, Joey Ramirez, Julius Mana, Ralph Tuvera and lawyer Denn Tuvera.

Lacson and Aquino are the subjects of an arrest order issued by the Department of Justice for their alleged participation in the recent failed attempt to overthrow the Macapagal administration.

Lacson and his subordinates were accused of kidnapping Zeng Jia Xuan, his wife Hong Zhen Quiao, his brother Zeng Kang Pang, James Wong and Wong Kam Chong on March 26, 1999.

A team allegedly led by Campos seized the five Chinese nationals from a Mercedes Benz outside Damar Village on March 26, 1999.

Ong claimed that on April 15, 1999, Campos collected P10 million in ransom for the release of all the Chinese except Wong Kam Chong, whom they held on to in order to demand more money from his family.

Ong said she acted as negotiator-interpreter between Campos and the relatives.

Ong said the suspects eventually executed Wong along with another kidnap victim, Chong Hui Ming, on Aug. 28, 1999.

This even after the group collected a P3.5-million ransom from Wong's wife, Queena Lau Yuet Yuet, the NBI said.

The NBI quoted Ong as saying that she heard Villaroman report to Acop that the bodies of Wong and Chong had been chopped and burned to prevent identification. *With Mark Isaiah David*

RP asks US to arrest Atong Ang, Ricaforte

THE PHILIPPINE government has asked the United States to arrest two persons listed as former president Joseph Estrada's co-accused in his non-bailable case of plunder.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez identified the two as Charlie "Atong" Ang, a close friend of Estrada, and Yolanda Ricaforte, allegedly a personal auditor of the ex-president.

Perez said the Department of Justice has received word that Ang, whose Philippine passport has been canceled, is in Los Angeles.

Perez refused to provide details about Ricaforte's whereabouts, only saying that the government has established that she owns a house in the US. "We have requested the US government to arrest them preliminary to their extradition to the Philippines," Perez said.

Ang was identified by Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson as one of those who allegedly aided him in giving Estrada the P130-million kickback from excise tax on tobacco.

Ricaforte allegedly recorded the remittances of "jueteng" operators to Estrada as well as those who benefited from his bounty. *Cathy Cañares-Yamsuan*

Monzon, 46

DANILO M. Monzon died yesterday at the St. Claire's Medical Center in Makati. He was 46.

He is the brother of TV personality Tina Monzon-Palma.

He is survived by his wife, Bojite; children, Rica, Miko, Nikki, and Marki.; mother, Nena; siblings, Tina, Maritel, Ferdie and Ronnie.; in laws, Rene, Sonny, Malou and Sharon.

His cremated remains lie at the Don Bosco Charity Chapel, Pasay Road, Makati City. Services will be held on Sunday, May 6, at 2 p.m.

Gov't prosecutors oppose house arrest for Estradas

By Volt Contreras

GOVERNMENT prosecutors yesterday argued in court that placing jailed former President Joseph Estrada and his son, Jinggoy, under house arrest would set a "bad" legal precedent, threaten public safety, especially in his North Greenhills neighborhood, and overburden the already overworked police.

They said the Estradas were already "being treated with comfort far better than any other detainee" in their bungalow-type detention center at Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

The prosecutors also protested that the situation of the jailed ex-president cannot be compared to that of "political prisoners" like the late Sen. Benigno Aquino and former Senate President Jovito Salonga as he is being detained for the "common crime" of plunder.

Estrada's motion to be placed on house arrest instead of being kept in prison "has been submitted for resolution," Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Anacleto Badoy said yesterday.

He did not say when the court intends to release its ruling.

Estrada is to appear in court on June 27 to answer charges that he plundered P2 billion during his 30 months in office.

His defense lawyers in an ex-parte motion on April 25 asked the court to just detain their two VIP clients at their posh North Greenhills residence.

The prosecutors, in opposing the motion, said that a house arrest "does not have any legal basis" and is "inconsistent with the provision of law that capital offenses (like plunder) are non-bailable."

"To grant the (defense's) motion would be a bad precedent, as it would open the floodgates to similar and perhaps more meritorious petitions/motions for house arrest," they said, adding it would overburden the already overworked police and jail management officials.

"This will likewise pose great danger to the whole neighborhood of North Greenhills, where pro-Estrada people will gather and mass at the vicinity of the Estrada residence."

The ex-president's arrest on April 25 led to deadly street protests by his rabid supporters who laid siege to Malacañang last Tuesday. *With a report from AFP*

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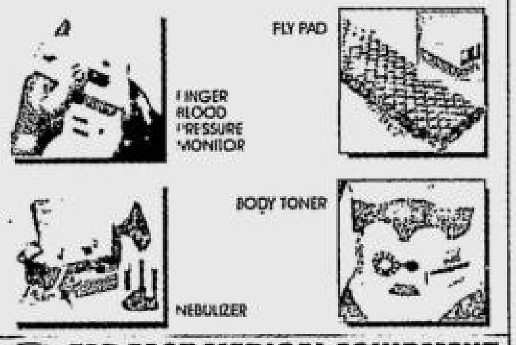

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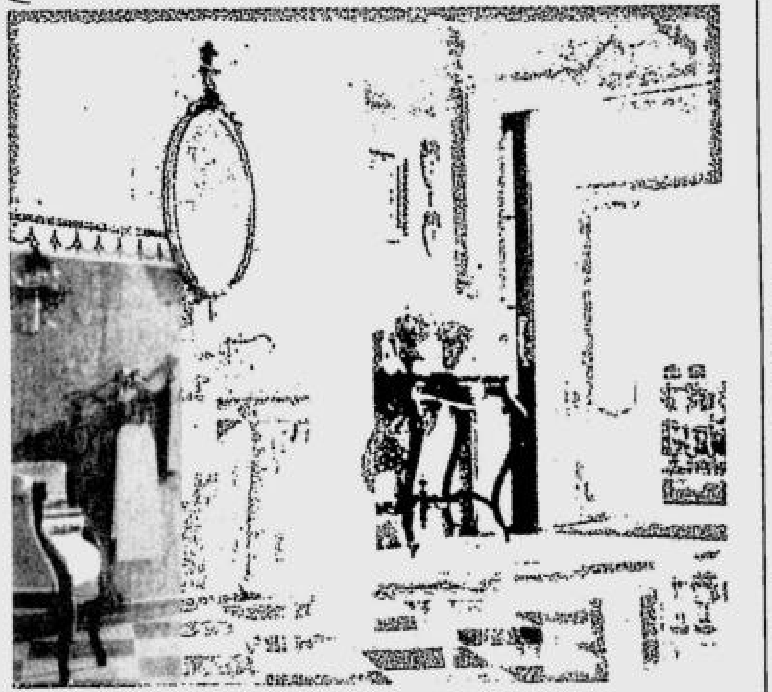

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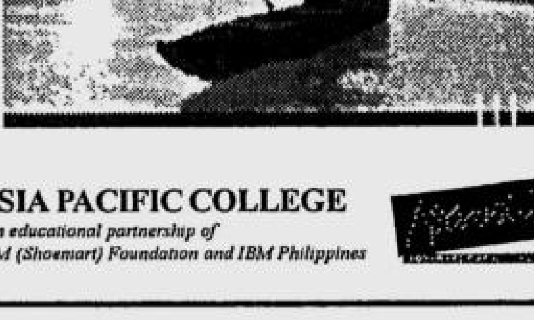

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Gringo says he's ready to die

(From page A1)

were, and said "nothing is final, nothing is formal."

According to observers, it is unlikely that Lacson will surrender to Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, chief of the PNP Intelligence Group, who had earlier arrested other alleged conspirators Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and Ernesto Maceda.

There is bad blood between the two men. Lacson had previously sent Berroya to prison on kidnapping charges, and Berroya had accused Lacson of, among others, involvement in kidnapping.

But Berroya said of Lacson yesterday: "Why is he so scared of his former territory, the PNP? He is afraid of his own ghost."

According to Berroya, Lacson is "so scared" of being detained at Camp Crame because he has committed "sins" against his fellow ranking officials as well as his subordinates.

Berroya said Lacson also showed that he was "untouchable and powerful" by selecting his own men for the "camp within a camp," the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, which he concurrently headed.

Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto, chief of the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, said Lacson would be "safe" in Camp Crame.

But Gualberto added that it would be just as fine if Lacson surrendered to the military.

Reyes said he had received no surrender feelers from the camps of Honasan and another suspect, Brig. Gen. Marcelino Malajacan.

But he said Lacson, Honasan and Malajacan should consider giving themselves up soon. "That's a step we should take for peace," he said.

The hunt for the three men as well as Lacson's former subordinates, Senior Superintendents Michael Ray Aquino and Cesar Mancao, is being undertaken by combined agents of the PNP, Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces, and National Bureau of Investigation.

Reyes belittled the capability of this group to mount a serious armed challenge against the government.

"The threat . . . would be very minimal," he said. "At most they can conduct some destabilization efforts."

He also said that if ever the group mustered an armed component to be used against the government, it would not come from within the AFP which he described as "solidly behind" the Macapagal administration.

Security threats

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said Honasan and Lacson—both part of the Puwersa ng Masa senatorial ticket—would be treated as fugitives if they did not surrender by the end of yesterday.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said that if the two did not surrender, preliminary investigation would be launched on Monday in preparation for filing rebellion charges in court.

Golez said Honasan and Lacson had the "capacity" to be considered threats to national security.

Honasan, a former colonel, was the leader of a military faction that mounted repeated rightist coup attempts against the Aquino administration in the 1980s, while Lacson still has extensive ties within the PNP.

Investigators earlier said the plotters behind the violent siege of Malacañang by Joseph Estrada's loyalists on May 1 had been trying to win over military and police officials in order to bolster the effort to topple Ms Macapagal.

While there are no signs that Estrada's allies are regrouping, security forces are on alert for possible destabilization moves such as bombings, Golez said.

He said more people would be added to the list of those to be arrested once investigators finish reviewing tapes of the loyalist rally that led to the march on the Palace.

"The pursuit will continue even after the lifting of the state of rebellion," he said.

Golez also said the government was also looking further into testimonies that the real aim of the plotters was not to reinstate Estrada but to eliminate both him and Ms Macapagal to set up a junta. *(Story on Page A1.)*

But Honasan insisted that the President's declaration of a state of rebellion in Metro Manila was "illegal."

He said the police and military had "blindly" followed orders despite their "mandate to follow only legal and constitutional orders."

He also said that, being the chair of the Senate committee on peace and reconciliation, he would be the last one to advocate violence, as what happened during the attack on Malacañang.

"My speeches (at the loyalist rallies on Edsa) are on record. They can examine these," he said.

Honasan is wary that he—who carries "the mandate of nine million Filipinos"—would be accorded shabby treatment upon his arrest.

In an apparent dig at Ms Macapagal who was swept to the presidency by People Power II, he emphasized that he was "not a product of an unusual or abnormal process."

"I was elected to make laws and uphold the Constitution, and that is what I am doing," he said.

Honasan likewise took Perez to task for revealing the alleged "military junta" plot in an interview with the media Thursday night, after the Supreme Court had already heard the oral arguments on the legality of the declaration of a state of rebellion.

"Why did Secretary Perez make the revelation before members of the media and not during the oral arguments? Is he afraid of being charged with perjury? Why did he refuse to name the players in the alleged plot or provide more details?" Honasan said.

'Right track'

Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin yesterday applauded the President for her crackdown on the alleged plotters of the power grab.

"You are on the right track. Less than what you did would have been weakness. More than that would be authoritarianism," Sin said in a letter, adding that Ms Macapagal had "blended well justice and love, force and tolerance, law and freedom."

"The culprits must be brought to justice," Sin said.

The influential cardinal also backed the President for her declaration of a state of rebellion in Metro Manila.

In Bacolod City, Bishop Vicente Navarra of the Bacolod and Kabankalan dioceses condemned "ambitious politicians and business tycoons" whom he tagged as the "brains and financiers" of the attack on Malacañang.

In his Circular Letter No. 179 issued on Thursday, Navarra also commended the policemen and soldiers for exercising maximum tolerance that minimized the number of casualties.

He called on Negrenses to continue praying that peace, stability and justice reign in the country.

Navarra asked his flock to attend a Mass of "thanksgiving and repentance" on May 13 at the San Sebastian Cathedral.

"Let us bring placards and streamers inviting our people to be converted from the sinful structures of our society perpetrated by our corrupt politicians and their political parties," he said.

Navarra said it was obvious that what happened on May 1 was "a blatant deception and manipulation of our poor and our unlearned Filipino people just to satisfy the lust for power of some ambitious and greedy individuals."

Recruitment

In Cebu City, Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos, chief of the Philippine Army, yesterday said Honasan tried but failed to recruit Army officers to launch a coup against the Macapagal administration.

De los Santos told reporters in an ambush interview that Honasan's friends had talked to some Army officers in Luzon in the recruitment effort.

He said the recruitment was made prior to the Labor Day attack on Malacañang.

De los Santos said the Army officers turned down Honasan's group and then reported the matter to him. He said he commended his men for not giving in.

He declined to name the officials approached by Honasan's group, but said some of them were company and battalion commanders and Scout Rangers.

He also said the Army would continue to be loyal to the government and to follow the chain of command.

De los Santos was in Cebu to preside over the turnover ceremony of the 53rd Engineering Brigade based at the Visayas Command headquarters.

Col. Cesar Gopilan relinquished his position as 53rd Engineering Brigade chief to Col. Roberto Dimayuga.

Like Honasan and Lacson, Gopilan is a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1971. *With reports from Christine Herrera and Norman Bordadora in Manila; Tonton A. Antogop, Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Ma. Diosa Labiste, Carla Gomez and Connie E. Fernandez, PDI Visayas Bureau; AFP*

Truckloads . . .

(From page A1)

soldiers.

Although Western Police District officers denied knowledge of any such action by government forces, several activist groups confirmed through their sources on the scene that the incident did happen.

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Anne Rosales said a member of her group, Boy Ponce, witnessed about 100 Armalite-toting uniformed officers and plainclothesmen swoop down on Barangays 101 and 105 in Tondo at around 9 p.m.

The area is also known, ironically, as Happyland, the National Housing Authority's temporary settlement site for former residents of Smokey Mountain, the rehabilitated garbage dump in Vitas, Tondo.

The massive arrest party arrived with "seven to 10 6x6 trucks" and after going from house to house left with all the trucks filled with male youths, Rosales said, quoting Ponce, Akbayan's district coordinator for Tondo who lives in neighboring Barangay 102.

"Those arrested were made to take off their shirts before climbing into the trucks," she added.

"*Para silang sinona.* It's like martial law," Rosales said, referring to the military practice of "zoning" or separating the men from the rest of the residents and taking them away for questioning.

Rosales is a street activist herself who was jailed and tortured by the military during the Marcos regime when arbitrary arrests were common.

She said Akbayan yesterday asked Western Police District officers about the arrested Tondo residents but received no answer.

She said the arrests made a strong case for the abrogation of the "state of rebellion" declared by President Macapagal-Arroyo following the fierce attack on Malacañang May 1 allegedly instigated by opposition forces associated with deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Prone to abuse

"We (Akbayan) were so against the declaration because it could be abused. This is it. It's already happening," she said.

She said the state of rebellion "should be lifted now and not on May 7," adding that her group intends to bring their demand to Malacañang through Interior Secretary Jose Lina and National Security Adviser Roilo Golez.

The leftist party-list group Bayan Muna said that with the "low regard government forces have for human rights, it could not be trusted not to abuse the declaration."

"We have seen how the military and police violated the civil and political rights of citizens even without any such declaration. How can we trust them not to do the same now with the declaration?" asked Bayan Muna president Satur Ocampo.

"What happened in Tondo was just deplorable. Even if they might be pro-Erap, they still have rights and the state should uphold them," Rosales told a forum yesterday.

The WPD denied any involvement in the mass roundup of Tondo residents.

Chief Insp. Floriano Agunod, WPD public information officer, said the Manila police had no knowledge of the operation.

Whodunnit

"We don't know who did it, or if it was even done, because our police station in Tondo was not aware of any such incident," Agunod told the INQUIRER.

The INQUIRER also checked with the WPD's operations division and 24-hour radio room and found they did not have any record of the incident.

Nevertheless, WPD director Senior Supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr. said he has ordered the Tondo station and the WPD intelligence and investigation division to check on the reports.

A police official, who asked not to be named, said the mass arrest could have been a "saturation drive" conducted by the police Special Action Forces to pick up drug pushers and users and other lawless elements.

The urban poor group, Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap, confirmed Akbayan's report of the Tondo roundup.

It said "Army troops" swooped down on the NHA housing project. It also quoted reports that two truckloads of people were arrested by the officers in the nearby garbage dump at Pier 8.

Local residents could not give more details, however, such as what units the arresting officers belonged to or how many there were, as they were "sent scampering at the sight of the soldiers," Kadamay chair Carmen Deunida said in press statement.

The incident, Deunida said, frightened even anti-Estrada residents in the area.

Kadamay condemned the incident and connected it to the government's declaration of a "state of rebellion."

Deunida said the ban on rallies, warrantless arrests, and the incident in Tondo "only give more reason for government to immediately lift the state of rebellion."

"The militarist faction within the Macapagal government is capitalizing on her declaration with such alacrity that they have begun to trample on the basic rights of the people," she said.

Lawyer says Erap . . .

(From page A1)

royo, (You don't really expect him to call her beloved acting President)," the lawyer said.

He made the remarks as a source in the Estrada camp told the INQUIRER that Estrada's bungalow-like detention house is furnished not just with middle-class comforts, but may be equipped with eavesdropping devices as well.

Some of Estrada's visitors have discovered oddly placed "boxes" fixed on the interior walls, which are believed to contain "hidden cameras and microphones," according to the source.

Police had earlier said that speakers were attached to the walls as part of a one-way paging system that would allow guards to call Estrada from outside the house.

The source said one suspicious "box" was "disguised" as a stereo speaker above the main entrance door that opens to the living room.

In the opposite corner, another box has also been attached to the wall.

"We presume there are similar devices in the two bedrooms but we have not seen them yet," the source said.

Fortun confirmed that "we have discovered cables which appear to be connected to some audio or video equipment."

"We have neutralized them, though," Fortun said. He did not elaborate.

At a meeting with Estrada yesterday in his detention cell in Fort Santo Domingo, Fortun said he asked his client to explain why he called Ms Macapagal "our President" in front of a TV camera.

"It was not really for any legal consideration (why I asked), but because media commentaries this morning had made it appear that he had already conceded (the presidency to Ms Macapagal). I just wanted to clarify things," he said.

"He explained to me that he did it mainly because Ms Macapagal also addressed him as 'President.' He was just being courteous," he said. "It meant nothing *(walang kahulugan ito),*" Fortun said.

Fortun did not say how Estrada was taking his detention.

But Interior Secretary Joey Lina said the isolation was taking its toll on the former president.

"Sometimes it can be lonely at the top," Lina quoted Estrada as saying. Lina accompanied Ms Macapagal in her visit.

Lina said Ms Macapagal had promised Estrada that the administration was going "to bend" some prison rules for him.

This includes putting up a door in the toilet of Estrada's bedroom although it is prohibited under normal rules, according to Lina.

Ms Macapagal's surprise visit to Estrada's detention center drew flak from militant groups.

The Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace lamented that while the President used "sticks" against "Estrada's blinded followers" who stormed Malacañang on May 1, she offered "carrots" to Estrada through her visit to his cell in Fort Sto. Domingo.

For its part, the party-list group Akbayan said that while Ms Macapagal's visit was commendable, the way she treated Estrada's supporters was deplorable.

"In a matter of weeks, we have seen the people-power installed President shaking hands with the country's most notorious criminals – priest killer Norberto Manero and deposed President Joseph Estrada," the EMJP said in a statement. *With reports from Armand Nocum and Andrea Trinidad-Echavez*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, May 5, 2001
3rd Week of Easter

1st Reading: *Acts 9:31-42*
Gospel: *Jn 6:60-69*

Many of Jesus' followers said, "This language is very hard! Who can accept it?"

Jesus was aware that his disciples were murmuring about this and so he said to them, "Does this offend you? Then how will you react when you see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh cannot help. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. But among you there are some who do not believe."

From the beginning, Jesus knew who would betray him. So he added, "As I have told you, no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

After this many disciples withdrew and no longer followed him. Jesus asked the Twelve, "Will you also go away?" Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We now believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

Commentary:

"Will you also go away?" A question full of disappointment but also full of compassion. Jesus, the supreme sign of God's love for this world is rejected. Yet he does not retract his words to bring back the disciples who have withdrawn themselves from following him further. This sign will always remain summoning people to life, being himself the Holy One of God sent by God, after having been taught by God-Self. Jesus has remained a disciple of God. Discipleship is not a matter of being successful but of being attuned to the sovereign will of God, proclaiming and following it at all cost even of oneself. This is the discipleship that the Master shows us. Follow him and life eternal begins for you even now.

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Miriam's gun display raises Nani's eyebrows

(From page A1)

arrested even if government prosecutors found probable cause and evidence against her.

Mendoza was apparently unaware of this because he said at a news conference that all peaceful means would be employed in arresting Santiago.

He said the Armed Forces could also negotiate for Santiago's surrender considering that her brother could advise her to do so.

Ms Macapagal's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said Perez was negotiating with Santiago's husband, former Interior Undersecretary Narciso Santiago Jr., regarding the arrest order.

Tiglao said Santiago's display of her gun did not speak well of her as a senator.

"We have already fielded instructions not to touch *Aling* Miriam, even if we find probable cause and evidence," Perez pointed out. "*Hindi na kailangang pumatay ng tao dahil walang susugod sa kanya* (There is no need for her to kill anyone because no one is going to storm her house)."

Special treatment

Perez did not explain why Santiago was meriting such special treatment, unlike two other alleged conspirators—Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, her co-candidate in the PnM, and Ernesto Maceda, a former ambassador to the United States.

Enrile has been held in Camp Crame for the past four days.

Maceda was taken to the St. Luke's Medical Center after undergoing inquest interrogation in Camp Crame Thursday night. He had been detained in Crame for two days.

Lesser offense

Government prosecutors have decided to charge him with conspiracy to commit rebellion, instead of rebellion which is a nonbailable offense. On the conspiracy charge he can obtain temporary liberty by posting bail of P80,000.

Perez announced that the decision to charge Maceda with a lesser offense was reached after a talk with the former ambassador before he was rushed to the hospital Thursday night.

"I was the one who interviewed him. Maceda said he was only invited as a negotiator (representing supporters of former President Joseph Estrada) with the Arroyo government. However, Maceda said he was not aware of any attempt to overthrow the government," Perez said.

Perez later added that while Maceda, also a former Senate President, was heard uttering statements about overthrowing the government, "there was no evidence that he was part of the group that planned to attack (lusob) Malacañang."

"After an assessment, the government prosecutors decided to change the charge from rebellion to inciting to rebellion which is not a capital offense and is bailable," Perez said during the morning press conference.

In the afternoon, however, Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño disclosed that the charge against Maceda is conspiracy to commit rebellion.

Zuño said videotapes gathered by government prosecutors showed Maceda shouting, "Gloria, bumaba ka na!" during the rally of Estrada supporters at the Edsa Shrine on April 29.

Zuno said prosecutors from the Manila Fiscal's Office filed the case before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court yesterday afternoon.

Hold-departure order

Perez said a hold-departure order issued by the Bureau of Immigration against Maceda remains.

"Maceda is a known person and his lawyer (Alfred Lazaro Jr.) is also known. We can allow Maceda provisional liberty with the cognizance of his lawyer," Perez explained.

Maceda appeared at the Supreme Court the other day to question his continued detention at the CIDG building in Camp Crame.

Television reports said Maceda had already complained he had difficulty breathing before going to the high court.

During the hearing, Lazaro said Maceda was arrested without a warrant and that his arresting officer, Philippine National Police intelligence chief Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, could not mention any crime that Maceda was charged with.

Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo, representing the government, later told SC justices that when Maceda heard that he was going to be charged with rebellion, he gave feelers that he would give up peacefully but wanted to do so before Berroya.

Marcelo also said Berroya informed Maceda that he was being charged with rebellion during his arrest.

"With Supt. Berroya are those (persons) with personal knowledge of the charge against him. The inquest (for this case) was supposed to start this (Thursday) afternoon but because of the oral arguments, it did not push through," Marcelo explained in court.

Enrile was in the same high court hearing as he also submitted a petition for a writ of habeas corpus alleging that he too was illegally arrested by Berroya and illegally detained in Camp Crame.

The SC gave Maceda, Enrile, Perez and Marcelo 24 hours which ended early evening yesterday to comment on what transpired during the oral arguments.

Ex-BIR cashier gets 2 life terms

(From page A1)

vantage of public position" was inherent in the crime and should not be treated as an aggravating circumstance.

Along with Manalili, also charged with plunder were BIR Region 7 assistant director Teofisto Sapitula, special collections officer Joel Marcelo, and businessmen Gil Erencio and Luis Se Jr., cousins of Manalili and Marcelo, respectively; and Reynaldo Enriquez, a relative of Marcelo.

Sapitula, Marcelo, Erencio, Se and Enriquez are still at-large.

The court ordered Manalili and her cohorts to return the money and all profits from using the funds.

However, tax fraud investigators found the two accounts "almost depleted" when they were discovered in late 1996.

After withdrawing the money, Manalili and the others were left "to enjoy what they have illegally accumulated and hence their purpose has been achieved," Judge Peralta said.

ROMY HOMILLADA

NO trace of emotion on Manalili's face as she is handcuffed after the verdict was handed down.

Peralta said what Manalili and the others did was "tantamount to a raid on the public treasury."

Prepared for worse

Manalili, wearing a yellow detainee uniform, appeared composed through the half hour that the 23-page decision was read by RTC Branch 95 clerk of court lawyer, Ruth Ferrer. Apparently prepared for the worst, the former cashier showed no trace of emotion after the verdict was read.

In handing down the decision, Peralta said that while the prosecution established the facts that Manalili and her co-accused opened unauthorized BIR accounts at the Landbank, West Triangle branch, and subsequently made unauthorized withdrawals, it managed to prove only one aggravating circumstance.

"The law provides that if the aggravating circumstance is inherent in the crime, the same shall not be taken into account for the purpose of increasing the penalty," the court said.

With the verdict of reclusion perpetua, Manalili would spend at least 20 years and one day in prison up to a maximum of 40 years.

The crime

Court records show that on Nov. 5, 1996, Manalili and Sapitula opened an unauthorized BIR account at the Land Bank of the Philippines branch in West Triangle, QC.

The suspects deposited P197.5 million to the account in addition to the initial deposit of P387,800 made between November 1996 and February 1997. The accused then withdrew from the account through checks made payable to them or to the entities they purportedly represented.

Four of the checks worth P7.6 million were even made to Manalili herself, prosecutors from the DOJ said.

Manalili and her co-accused, Marcelo, opened another account with the Landbank and also made unauthorized withdrawals, causing the government to lose another P66.76 million.

A court employee explained that Manalili's case was tried by the RTC and not the anti-graft court, the Sandiganbayan, because her salary grade was below Grade 27, or that of a director. *With a report from AP*

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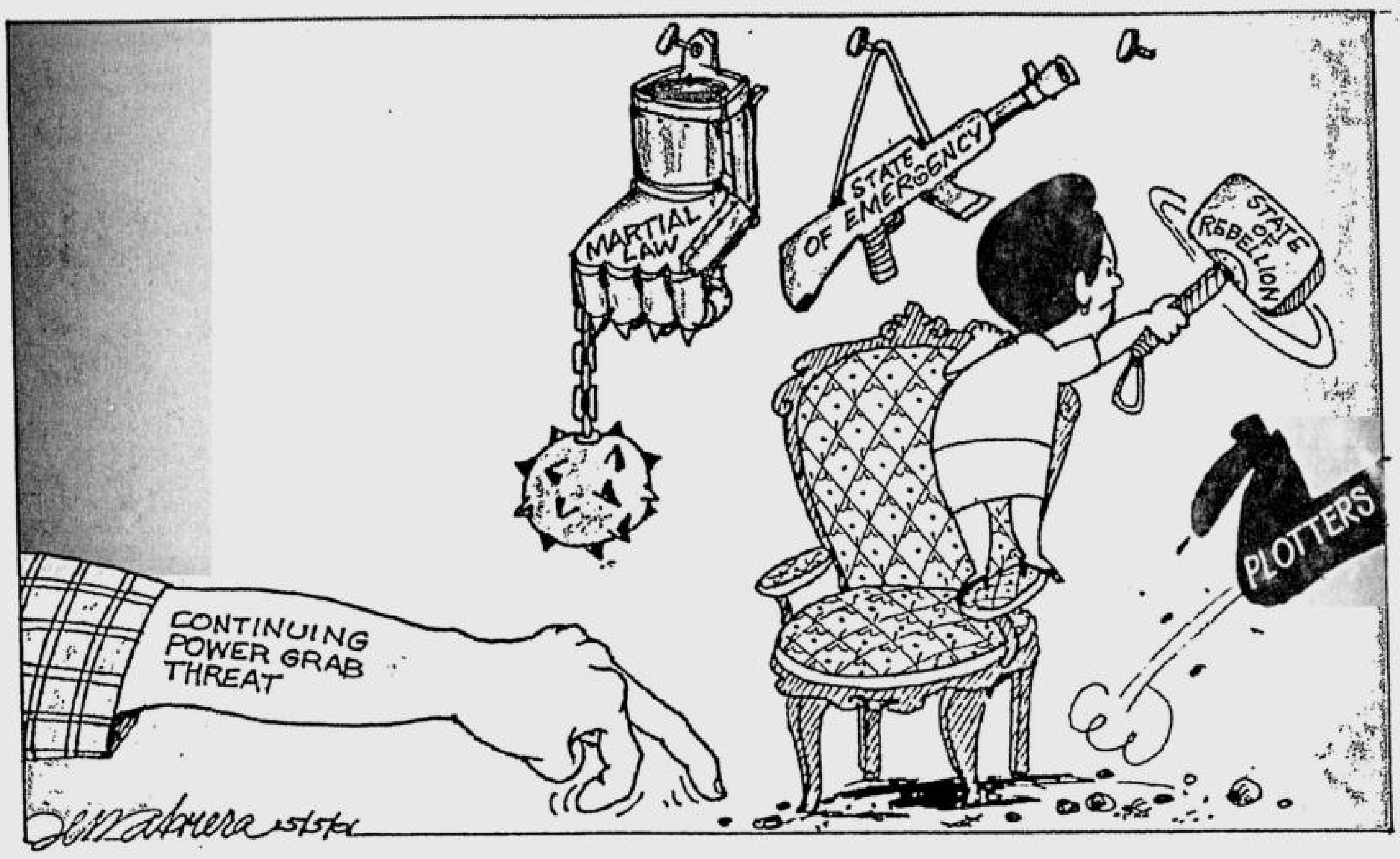


Miriam's law

EDITORIAL

THE DECLARATION of a state of rebellion in Metro Manila may have effectively prevented the pro-Estrada forces from regrouping. And it has certainly spooked the flamboyant Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

Last Thursday, Santiago made a declaration of her own. Speaking to television reporters from behind her desk, with a 9-mm pistol conspicuously placed beside her, she declared that she would fight her arrest—literally. The reelectionist senator, who calls herself in her campaign propaganda the champion of the Constitution, said she was ready to shoot it out with arresting officers. Agence France Presse quoted Santiago as saying, "I will defend myself. I will not come quietly when they come to take me away."

At the Commission on Elections office, she went further, saying she would effect a "citizen's arrest" on her arresting officers for allegedly violating the Election Code.

Having burst into the national consciousness as a highly quotable immigration commissioner in the Aquino administration ("I eat death threats for breakfast"), Santiago has always had a flair for the dramatic. So it is tempting to dismiss her act of defiance the other day as just precisely that: an act.

Maybe she was only indulging in "rhetorical techniques," the justification she used to explain why she was not about to jump off a plane without a parachute, as she had promised to do in the event that Joseph Estrada was arrested. Or maybe she had simply "lied,"—her initial answer, caught on television and since replayed many times.

There are three reasons for doubting this new promise of bravado.

First, Santiago personally asked the Supreme Court last Wednesday to issue a temporary restraining order to stop government authorities from arresting her, in connection with the May 1 siege of Malacañang. (In contrast, fellow reelectionist Sen. Gregorio Honasan and former PNP Director General Panfilo Lacson have gone into hiding.) The following day, Santiago filed a petition with the Comelec, asking it to postpone the May 14 polls because of the declaration of a state of rebellion. These are lawyerly strategies, and they reflect her legal training.

Admittedly, Santiago has gotten much flak for her notorious name-dropping (she claims to have graduated from Harvard, Oxford and Cambridge, a claim repeated in her campaign ads, although in truth she has attended only short summer courses at these universities). But she does have a solid law degree from the University of the Philippines and a doctorate in law from the University of Michigan. It is only natural that she would seek succor from the courts.

Second, there was her media blitz yesterday, where she took pains to explain away the pistol on her desk. She always keeps a gun beside her, she said, especially when she perceives a threat to her life. Her only mistake was failing to hide it when the media suddenly came calling. This is a rhetorical strategy, and reflects her experience as a candidate for office (twice for president) and politician.

Indeed, this is the way she has justified her inflammatory statements (recorded on videotape) at the pro-Estrada rally at the Edsa Shrine: that they need to be understood in the context of a political campaign.

Third, and as Justice Secretary Hernando Perez revealed yesterday, the embattled senator had already submitted a request through her brother, Philippine Air Force chief Benjamin Defensor, that her arrest be put on hold until after the Supreme Court shall have ruled on her petition. It is a request that the President has accepted, according to Perez. This is a backroom strategy, and reflects her status as a power player, as a pragmatic political operator.

These strategies aside, however, what the public will long remember is the vivid image of a tough-talking senator of the Republic with a gun at her side. The message the image sends is that of a powerful official who refuses to submit to the law—indeed, of someone who is ready to take the law into her own hands. Santiago may have valid grounds for objecting to her impending arrest, but that is for the Supreme Court to say. In the meantime, the government's decision to arrest her enjoys the presumption of validity. As a lawyer and therefore an officer of the court, she ought to know better. Instead of brandishing her gun, she should let the law take its course.

Secretary Roco for the teachers

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE BAD news is that Raul S. Roco is no longer a member of the Senate. The good news is that he is now the secretary of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports.

Roco sat in the Senate for two consecutive terms and was disqualified for a third consecutive term. There's no question that he served with distinction in that chamber and proved a sharp contrast to some of his less endowed colleagues. In a way, he was a redeeming factor. The presence of movie and television stars masquerading as statesmen in that august chamber was offset by the eminent qualifications of Roco.

Although he is justly credited with many legislative accomplishments, he will be best appreciated for his role in the impeachment trial of Joseph Estrada. Roco was the leader of the anti-Erap senator-judges who resisted the efforts of the Craven Eleven to salvage their hero. The arrogant Juan Ponce Enrile was no match for the younger and less showy but more astute Roco.

The only thing flamboyant about Roco is his loud shirts. I wouldn't be surprised if they didn't turn off many potential supporters in his presidential bid in 1998. Our history and economy would not have taken the sudden dip under Estrada if Roco and not the disgraced demagogue had been at the helm.

I'm particularly elated that Roco is at the head of the DECS because of his known concern for the welfare of the teachers. Teachers are among the most neglected and abused workers in our civil service. Apart from the meager salaries they receive for the invaluable functions they perform, they are often also the victims of government neglect or indifference. Late delivery of their salaries, non-payment of their chalk and clothing allowances, oversizing of classes and overloading of assignments are only a few of their legitimate complaints.

When in 1990 a mass leave of action was declared by the public school teachers in Metro Manila "to dramatize and highlight their plight," they were summarily ordered to return to work on pain of dismissal. Those who defied the order were dismissed as threatened. They sought relief from the Supreme Court in Manila Public School Teachers Association v. Laguio, 200 SCRA 323, but did not succeed. Their petition was denied in a 9-5 decision on the procedural ground that appeal to the high tribunal should be made only as a last resort.

Left unresolved were the basic issues involved in the case, among them the right of the teachers to ventilate their grievances through the exercise of their freedom of expression and to petition the government for redress of their grievances. Worse, the majority opinion affirmed the ruling earlier laid down in SSS Employees Association v. Court of Appeals, 175 SCRA 686, that members of the civil service, while entitled to form labor unions, are, unlike workers in the private sector, not allowed to strike.

I have always been opposed to this doctrine because it is illogical and discriminatory. I see no reason why workers in a private hospital are allowed to strike while workers in a government hospital are not when disruption of work in either hospital will affect the health and lives of its patients.

The strike is the most effective weapon of a labor union and should be equally available to both private and government workers, including the public school teachers. Private school teachers have as much responsibility as public school teachers to their respective students, but the former can strike while the latter cannot.

In his dissenting opinion, Justice Hugo E. Gutierrez, while denying that the teachers' concerted action was a strike, nevertheless said: "Teachers have legitimate and pressing grievances. When Government consistently fails to act on these grievances, the teachers have a right to *speak in an effective manner*. For speech to be effective, it must be forceful enough to make the intended recipients listen."

Similar views were expressed by Justice Feliciano, Padilla and Sarmiento who argued for a more compassionate treatment of the teachers as "the silent and unsung heroes of our society."

As the only one of the dissenters who categorically argued for the teachers' right to strike, I said:

"It is so easy to say that the education of the youth should not be disrupted but we should not f[illegible] that the protection of freedom of expression is no less important. The quality of education would deteriorate in an atmosphere of repression, when the very teachers who are supposed to provide an example of courage and self-assertiveness to their pupils can speak only in timorous whispers. The classroom should be an incubator of freedom, not fear."

I am sure that under the wise and aggressive leadership of Roco, the DECS will develop a more sympathetic attitude toward the teachers. Their vital task in the education of the people is essential to the growth of democracy, especially in the exercise of the people's suffrages, p[illegible]larly in the coming elections.

Congratulations to Secretary Raul S. Roco on his well-deserved appointment. And cordial hopes for his success in his new position, which will now test his administrative abilities.

Wake-up call

COMMENTARY

Melanie P. Ramos
Institute on Church and Social Issues

> The issue is really bad governance: the continuous lack of basic services, corrupt public officials, the violation of the Constitution and other laws

TEXT messages circulated in the aftermath of Tuesday's bloody encounter at Mendiola, informing people that the mobilization scheduled for Luneta had been moved to the Edsa Shrine. Apparently, the shrine had already been secured by the military and the police and a Mass was to be celebrated by Jaime Cardinal Sin there at 4 p.m. But more than the details informing people of the change in schedule, one text message said that it was most important that people go to Edsa without hate in their hearts. I went there heeding the call and reflecting on the disturbing events unfolding in the nation.

The reclamation of the Edsa Shrine was highlighted by the Mass. Thousands of people came to regain the Spirit of Edsa (I and II) and restore sanctity to the sacred ground which had been desecrated during last week's rallies. In his homily, the cardinal called for continuous prayer and sacrifice in atonement to the desecration of the shrine. Furthermore he called for prayers for the people who participated in "Edsa III," who were used by ambitious politicians seeking to advance themselves.

Juan Ponce Enrile and Ernesto Maceda have now been arrested and detained at Camp Crame. As two of the most visible personalities in the pro-Erap rallies at Edsa, they are charged with inciting rebellion by inflaming the emotions of the demonstrators through their speeches, indirectly causing them to attack the Palace.

But how come only Enrile and Maceda were arrested? Shouldn't the others who were also present at the rallies and who uttered inflammatory rhetoric also be indicted? Many people believe that Miriam Santiago, Panfilo Lacson and Gregorio Honasan should also be jailed together with Enrile and Maceda. They should also be investigated as to their roles in the bloody encounter at Mendiola.

It is not hard to see how the poor have become naive victims in the game orchestrated by these ambitious politicians. The "Edsa III" rally was not spontaneous as some say. It was well planned by cunning minds seeking to destroy the credibility of the present government so they could augment their power at the expense of the poor. Some of the people at Edsa were paid to attend the rallies. Jeeps or dump trucks would pass by urban poor areas to pick people up and bring them to Edsa. In return for their "support," they were given food and money. For people who need to survive, a few hundred pesos are indeed a blessing. And who would not take it—if only to feed one's starving family?

But there were also those who came to the rally of their own accord. Some were really die-hard Erap fans who thought that Erap was innocent (since the charges against him have not been proven), that he is still the president (on leave *lang*) and should therefore be reinstated. Others believed that though Erap was not blameless, his sins were not as grave as those committed by other presidents and politicians during their regimes—so if they were not indicted, why should Erap be jailed?

Some people harped on the class gap, citing how the rich continue to enrich themselves while the poor continued to live in poverty. They said that Edsa II was an elite revolution and did not represent the voice of the *masa*.

Still there were those who joined the demonstrations not entirely because of Erap, but to voice their grievances to the government. "Edsa III" was a venue to express their bitterness over how their needs had been constantly ignored by leaders who promised them a better life.

Though the *masa* that converged on Edsa the past week had various motives, one thing is clear. Many were there to show their displeasure over how the government is run. The issue is really bad governance: the continuous lack of basic services, corrupt public officials, the violation of the Constitution and other laws. The *masa* believe that their concerns are not given attention, so they have no choice but to march against the government in protest. "Edsa III," more than anything else, is really a wake-up call for the government and for our future leaders. They cannot anymore turn a deaf ear to the people because many won't stand for it. Now is the time to listen to the people's needs before another bloody revolution occurs.

Thus, while we make reparations for the desecration of the Edsa Shrine, we would do well to ask how we as a nation can make reparations to the millions of children of God and temples of the Holy Spirit, more precious than any human temple, violated by our government and our own, indifference.

Conflict resolution Pinoy style

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THAT 20-minute meeting last Thursday in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, between President Macapagal and her deposed predecessor was cordial and gracious, and obviously former President Estrada was touched. He did not hesitate to call her "our beloved President." In turn, Ms Macapagal reserved for him her most charming smiles.

It was Filipino social graces being applied to a very touchy political situation. Just two days earlier, their forces were battling each other in the streets (and now in the courts). Days before, at the Edsa Shrine, the Erap camp was damning the legitimacy of Ms Macapagal and vowing to bring Erap back to power. *Only in da Pilipins*, indeed.

* * *

There were touches of comedy such as Erap shyly hiding the wristband with the presidential seal, which he was caught wearing when she came; and Ms Macapagal agreeing to the necessity of putting curtains in his new place and longer visiting hours for his family. Indeed as she inspected the place, Ms Macapagal looked like a typical landlady giving in to a tenant who wanted more accoutrements.

Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal arranged the meeting presumably at Ms Macapagal's request and the objective doubtless was to help lower the tension. The Palace said no deals were struck, but some cynics wondered if Erap could have talked to Ms Macapagal about not bringing rebellion charges against his two other sons, Jude Estrada and JV Ejercito, and putting him under house arrest in Polk Street.

We may never know. What mattered really was that the two protagonists could smile at each other. If they could, perhaps their followers could too. Filipino-style conflict resolution?

* * *

There's one woman, though, for whom a smile is a rare commodity: Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago. The more she glares at the TV cameras, the more people she convinces that she might have lost her marbles. Santiago's use of that 9 mm gun to announce that she would resist any warrantless arrest was not merely unfortunate, it was sinful. I can see Gunless Society president Nandy Pacheco tearing his hair over the message that gun was sending to the youth.

In the first place, as constitutional expert Fr. Joaquin Bernas opined in the Star, "legally (the President) can also order the arrest of those engaged in the rebellion even without a warrant" because under current jurisprudence, rebellion is "a continuing crime." But even assuming Santiago does not believe Ms Macapagal was right in ordering warrantless arrests, as a former judge she ought to know that if anyone has any question on the interpretation of the law, the court is the place to challenge it, which is what Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and Ernesto Maceda have done. One shoots one's way out of a bind only in the wild, wild West.

Let's hope her insufferable antics have by now convinced the voters about the folly of voting for Santiago. To them I say, bet instead on lawyer Liwayway Chato or economist Winnie Monsod.

* * *

Melon Recto-Silverio, who is aspiring to replace Joker Arroyo as representative of the first district of Makati City, has come a long way from when she was Melon Who? Now she is referred to as the "dark horse" as she battles two giants who are being supported by former Mayor Jojo Binay: Teddy Boy Locsin and Armida Siguion-Reyna. Running with very little resources against Binay's machinery and Siguion-Reyna's money and *artistas*, this Assumptionista social worker has captivated the media with her pure heart, her intelligence and practical sense as well as her ability to bridge the chasm between the rich and poor in the country's financial center.

Another reason Melon is coming up fast is that among the three candidates, she is the only one who is conducting a very systematic campaign. This is because she has been carrying out educational and health projects for the "poor Makati" for years. Using boundless energy to make up for her lack of resources and her underdog status, Melon incessantly stumps the barangays of the first district even though the slums of what is supposedly the country's richest district stink like nobody's business. To help in name recall, her followers give out cheap melon-flavored candies saying, "Sorry, *ito lang ang kaya naming ipamigay*." Her PPC partners, the "Dream Team" of Binay's challenger, Vice Mayor Edu Manzano, can only say. "*Suko kami sa* determination *ni* Melon to win."

* * *

If Makati has its "Dream Team," a.k.a. the "clean team," Silay City in Negros Occidental has its "heart-to-heart team" led by Lakas-NUCD mayoralty candidate Jose "Pop-i" Locsin III, 38, son of the late Sen. Jose Locsin. Pop-i became acting mayor when Mayor Edwin "Bigot" Velez was suspended for alleged graft and his vice mayor died. He is running against Carlo Velez Gamban, the ousted mayor's cousin.

Pop-i's mother, Dudy Santiago-Locsin, was my husband's high school classmate in Bacolod. At their homecoming two weeks ago, Dudy explained that the "heart-to-heart team" derived its name from the fact that its candidates listen to the people and respond from the heart, intelligently and even intuitively. "Pop-i's team is simply for good governance as against commercial government," said Dudy, who's known for her strong environmental advocacy.

* * *

That spiel about Pop-i is a proud mom's biased opinion, but one thing is sure: Locsin's campaign style is very yuppy. He opens up with his guitar, sharing his perceptions of the specific needs and problems of his people as he strums his guitar. Blessed with a good voice, he ends his speech by serenading his listeners with a popular and a praise song. In between speeches, there are performances by Pop-i's kids, his wife Babe's singers and even a song from the singing family *lavandera*—"Sound of Music" style.

Locsin's team campaigned actively for Estrada's ouster, but such is Negros' twisted-up politics that his group ended up with the local party UNA, which is affiliated with Danding Cojuangco. This naturally has run into criticism even from Pop-i's mom's classmates who fear he will owe allegiance to Cojuangco, but Pop-i assures them that he cannot be dictated to by anyone. Proof of this is that his team is carrying all the 13 PPC senatorial candidates.

* * *

From Iloilo City, I am happy to learn that my good friend, Councilor Victor Facultad, is leading by what seems to be an irreversible margin in surveys conducted by Iloilo radio stations. The genial Vic, a product of the Ateneo and businessman and president of the Panay Federation of Sugar Farmers, is happy and content to run for vice mayor of Iloilo City, even though friends say his talents make him qualified to seek a higher post. Facultad dreams of making Iloilo City more business and environment-friendly and upgrading its port services, especially now that Bacolod City has opened a spanking new modern port, built by Sammy Palanca, that is much better than Iloilo City's old port.

Rating the candidates

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HARDLY had the smoke cleared from Mendiola and Recto Avenue when politicians started weighing in with their "takes" on the declaration of a "state of rebellion" in Metro Manila. The Puwer(s)a (a)ng Masa candidates, particularly, were stumbling all over themselves exculpating themselves from blame, while denouncing the "abuse" of human rights in the aftermath.

Will these people never shut up, if only to give us a moment's peace?

So let me step away from this scenario for a moment and talk to you instead about efforts being undertaken—quietly, but earnestly—by private citizens and groups seeking to uplift the quality of our public life.

A few weeks ago I met with Pam Basa, marketing manager of Pinnacle Stores, and her boss Phillip to discuss with them their plans for a "voter education" campaign to be carried out through their store, Space. As Phillip tells it, it took some doing to convince the other investors to let Space take a more visible, active role in a political exercise. But once management gave the go-ahead, it didn't take long for Space to get into voter education with gusto.

In Space stores in Robinson's Galleria, Robinson's Place Ermita, Greenbelt and Festival Mall, you'll find this slogan emblazoned on the display windows: "No Space for Greed, No Space for Fools." Customers will also find specially designed T-shirts bearing the same slogans, as well as free information materials, including "The Independent Woman's Poll Guide" in which "Space honors the new, enlightened voter."

* * *

THE YOUNG entrepreneurs behind Space mince no words as they explain the need for their young customers to get more deeply involved in the coming elections. "Greed is the root cause of graft and corruption, and graft and corruption are the maggots that eat away at our country's already ailing economy, national integrity and international image," they declare. To be sure we end up with a government "that leaves no space for greed," the poll guide lists several guidelines to use in determining if a candidate deserves to be elected. It has a list of all the registered senatorial candidates in a special tear-out section, and they suggest that voters cross out the names of any undesirables from the list.

The poll guide also offers "practical tips" on voting on May 14, including: come early; bring your voter's ID as well as a valid ID with photo; prepare a list the day before the voting and bring it with you to the voting booth, and don't forget a ballpen, either.

The poll guide also has a section on the party-list system, and it must be said that it's such an honor that Space chose to endorse to its market of young, hip females the women's party-list group Abanse! Pinay.

To Pam, Phillip and the rest of the management behind Space, a salute, then, for your fearless fusion of fashion and (political) passion.

* * *

THIS paper has already featured the results of a survey conducted by Earth Day Network Philippines (a network of most if not all of the major environmental or environmentally conscious NGOs in the country as well as supportive LGUs and individuals) on a "green rating" of the top senatorial candidates.

The results of the survey showed only two senatorial candidates winning the coveted "green" rating. Bobby Tañada and Johnny Flavier, both of whom are in the PPC slate. Only one received the dreaded "black" mark: Juan Ponce Enrile, who must contend not only with the environmentalists' blackball, but a rebellion charge as well.

Delfin Ganapin, secretary general of the Earth Day Network, writes to explain the exercise: "As we've experienced in Edsa 1, the gains of Edsa II could so easily be lost if Filipinos again squander their votes and bring into power the worst and most corrupt politicians. That's why we have developed an instrument for 'rating' candidates (to be transformed into a monitoring system later on) which we hope other groups will adopt and for much more widespread implementation come the 2004 elections."

* * *

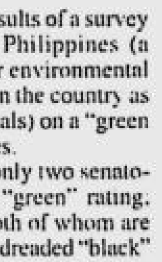
HERE are the 10 "guide questions" that the "Green Electoral College" used to rate the senatorial candidates, questions voters would, it is hoped, use to rate and make their own choices even for local office:

- **Knowledge. Does the candidate have good knowledge (or shows good knowledge) of critical environmental issues and concerns particularly on existing major environmental concerns as well as emerging issues and concerns?**
- **Personal Action. Has the candidate taken a lead in activities related to environmental issues and concerns, such as in the crafting of environmental laws or in the active implementation of such laws or in the implementation of environmental projects?**
- **Support for Others. Has the candidate provided support to community groups, non-governmental organizations and public institutions that are taking a lead in actions related to the environment?**
- **Promotion of Equity. Equity is a key aspect of sustainable development: has the candidate championed tenure security and access of the poor and vulnerable groups to natural resources?**
- **People's Empowerment, a key aspect of sustainable development. Has the candidate opened opportunities for people to be heard or to be part of policy and decision-making? Does he/she regularly consult with NGOs, POs and other basic sectors in planning and decision-making? Include the record of the candidate as regards the empowerment of women.**
- **Advocacy with Courage. Is the candidate a fearless advocate against wrongdoings of the wealthy and the powerful?**
- **Inspired Leadership. Has the candidate provided inspired leadership as a civic leader or as a politician? Can he/she be considered a model for the youth?**
- **Negative Action. Has the candidate supported the passage of laws or the issuance of permits to projects that are inimical to the environment? Is the candidate the owner, major stockholder, or ally of companies or projects that has led to environmental degradation?**
- **Personal Lifestyle. Does the candidate flaunt wealth? Does he/she gamble, is a drunkard, womanizer/adulterer or involved in other vices?**
- **Integrity. Is the candidate involved in graft and corruption?**

The ebb and flow of time

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



IN THE SHIPYARDS of Cavite were built galleons, *pataches* and *galeras* that used to navigate the seas around us. The riches of the Orient bound for Acapulco were loaded there and passengers from distant lands disembarked with their worldly goods. Cavite was looked upon as the second capital of the Philippines.

Today Cavite is basically a suburb of Manila more notorious for Tagaytay Highlands with its prefab cottages (one of which Estrada was allowed to use in his glory days) worth reputedly a million dollars than anything that may have occurred in its past.

During the 18th century the great enemy of the port of Cavite was the sea which, with its incessant attacks, little by little stole land to the point of threatening its existence. This danger began to be felt toward the end of the 17th century when Gov. Gabriel Curuzelaegui wrote to the king, speaking for the first time of the need to stop the continuous advance of the sea that threatened to destroy the port.

In the next century, the sea continued to gain ground, burying the hospital of San Juan de Dios which was located on the north bank. The hospital was reconstructed for the fourth time in 1728, but by 1749 it was under water. The monks in charge transferred from the interior of the enclosed area of the plaza to a property beside the convent of the discalced Augustinians.

When Governor Cruzat arrived in 1702, he reported that despite repairs made to stop the advance of the sea, the damage was so bad that only the central road remained, the water having occupied the two lateral ones. In the northern part, the college and church of the Jesuits were nearly ruined and the convent of the Dominicans was practically isolated as the waves lapped at its foundations.

The hub or central part of Puerta Vaga that was once quite a distance from the sea had part of its foundations destroyed, the water penetrating during high tide. Ten cannons were removed to lessen the possibility that the load would make it sink further.

The fortification of Cavite was of major importance, so its repair was urgent. Cavite City was situated on a tongue of land where various stone structures had been constructed. There were the royal houses where the governor resided when he traveled to Cavite from Intramuros for the departure of the galleon (after all he had quite a stake). There were also religious complexes, such as the parish church and various convents. The convent of San Telmo established by the Dominicans was located in the northern part of the city very near the sea, where the Jesuits and the Franciscans also had stone structures. Murillo-Velarde ("Historia de Filipinas de la Compania de Jesus") tells us that the parish priest, Lucas de Castro, personally financed the construction of a church in the school maintained there by the Jesuits. This church, which was dedicated to the Virgin of Loreto, was consecrated on the feast day of St. Francis Xavier in 1633.

The discalced Augustinians also had a church and convent in an area donated by a Cavite resident, Rafael Blanco, in the southern part of the city. It was at first made of wood but later upgraded to stone.

There was also a royal hospital for the soldiers administered by a steward and various assignees appointed by its founder, Gov. Juan Niño de Tavora (1622-32). Attempts were made to improve the building's material to stone and many residents gave donations but by mid-century, the structure was still made of wood

In 1641, a terrible fire left the city in ashes since most of the houses were of wood and nipa. The religious of San Juan de Dios who had recently returned to the country established a small hospital of 10 beds in the royal houses in the port of Cavite. The demand for medical services was so great, however, that they requested the turnover of the military hospital to them. Governor Corcuera agreed with the fiscal's recommendation on condition that the king's permission be secured within four years.

On Jan. 30, 1642, the transfer of the building of nipa and wood was done, and there the religious stayed until the following year when they again transferred to some stores that were usually rented out to the Sangleys. They requested the governor to give them the authority to occupy a light structure of cane and nipa located outside the area of the fort. Don Diego Fajardo agreed and here a hospital was constructed. In the 17th century, this hospital had to be rebuilt three times on account of the battering of the sea and other accidents. The first structure constructed by Fr. Francisco de Magallanes lasted until 1682. The third structure rebuilt in 1699 was too close to the sea and to the moat that separated the fort from the area of its suburbs of San Roque and Cavite Viejo both inhabited by fishermen and those who worked in the shipyards.

Both these places had strongly built churches. The former had a temple, with three naves with a roof of wood and tiles, that was destroyed by the British in 1762 leaving only the ruin of a bell tower, the principal door and some of the major walls.

Cavite Viejo's church was dedicated to Mary Magdalene whose image was venerated in the main altar. It was made of bricks, wood and tiles and remained in Jesuit hands until their expulsion.

Uncombed

Joshua Agarrado

YOUNGBLOOD

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I'M antisocial. Oh, I like people well enough; but it's society I can't stand. To be more specific, it's the lemming factor in society that I can't stand, that imperceptible pull of conformity that makes people do things just because everyone else is doing them and makes them resist the impulse to do what is right because no one else is doing it and they don't want to be the first.

It's not easy to define, but it's everywhere. You can see it during Mass. When the priest says, "Please rise," people stand up in waves, waiting for those in front to stand before they do the same thing.

Clothing companies call it "fashion sense" and make money off the millions of teenage girls (and, yes, boys) who want to look cool and hip and in. The people who saw fraternity members club Dennis Venturina to death must have wanted to stop it, but no one wanted to be the first to do so. Every day a million stupid things and sins of omission are committed because of it. And that is why I have waged war on the demons of conformity for conformity's sake.

I think it started with my hair. When I was still in first year, I'd fall asleep in the car on the way to school and wake up with my hair all standing up. I was so horrified at the idea of going around all day with a bad hair and having people staring at me that I'd ask my mom to brush it down for me. Of course, people stared at me all the more, gawking at the geek in the car and having his hair brushed by his mommy. I couldn't win.

But after almost a year of that, I woke up in the car one day with hair like dead porcupines, and it hit me with the force of the apple that landed on Newton's skull: It doesn't matter that others stare at me. It was an idea that would free me from bondage and shape my entire philosophy of life. I snapped out of my half-awake state with a big smile on my face, and mom looked at me strangely.

I wore the dead porcupines with pride that day. And as I went around, I realized that no one was staring at me. So there was nothing for me to be afraid of after all.

After that, everything just followed. Not caring about bad porcupine hair led to not caring about my physical appearance—or what others call fashion. Not caring about my physical appearance led to not caring about looking stupid, which in turn led to other things like being unable to tell lies, not being afraid to voice out my opinions, and being thought of as a leader of sorts for doing things no one else dared to do or do first.

In short, not worrying about what others may think or say has changed my whole life and made me a much better person. So here I am with an instinctive aversion to mindless conformity and hair that hasn't been brushed in three years.

Will I change the way I am? No, I don't think I would. I'm perfectly happy with the way I am now, and sometimes, no matter how hard I try to make it go away, I get this nagging feeling that people would be a lot happier, too, if they were more like me.

The feeling usually comes when I'm in a crowd of strangers—in a mall, for instance, or a bus. Always, all I see is a sea of tired, gray faces. No one's smiling, no one's bright-eyed. I'm in the midst of a crowd of people, every one of them no doubt special in his or her own way, and everyone looks the same.

Joshua Agarrado, 17, graduated with honors from the Ateneo High School last March. He still goes around with his hair uncombed.

Paradiso

Ally de Padua

THROUGH the centuries, people have pondered the idea of paradise. Each period in history has produced its own idea of heaven, and many of them are presented in the literature of that time.

Dante Alighieri's "The Divine Comedy" presents a lot of the popular ideas that the people of that age had about the hereafter. The poem also gives Dante's own ideas about heaven.

In his poem, Dante created his own ideal heaven and decided who was in Empyrean. While his poem is brilliant and his ideas are beautiful, it is still fiction. Thus, Christians are left to develop their own ideas about heaven, based on the Scriptures and tradition.

Dante's heaven, like his purgatory and hell, has three levels. There is a hierarchy of souls. No soul in heaven is unhappy; each is completely satisfied with his position.

The lowest rank of souls is located in the first sphere, the moon. It is from there that Dante and Beatrice, his guide, travel through the nine levels or spheres of heaven until they reach Empyrean, the "real" heaven, and the dwelling of God, His angels and His saints.

The souls in heaven are arranged in the form of a great white rose, with the Lord in the center. He is the source of all light, and His brightness is so overwhelming that Dante cannot see Him.

The Angel host eternally travels between God and the rows of souls and brings His light, love and peace to them. Dante compares them to bees, though unlike earthly bees, which bring the sweetness from the flower, the Angel host brings God's sweetness to the flower.

All the souls in Empyrean have their gaze fixed on the Lord, their eternal goal. But though he sees all this, Dante is incapable of actually seeing God, and he prays to the Virgin Mary for her intercession.

In answer to his prayer, Dante feels his soul swell with joy as he gradually sees the vision of the Lord, which is so awesome that he cannot describe it accurately afterwards, since he again becomes mortal. But though he is mortal, Dante is branded with the love of the Lord and His truth, and he knows that he will one day return to God's love.

My personal vision of heaven is different. It was shaped by the beliefs of the modern-day Catholic Church, Scriptures and popular beliefs.

I do not believe that there is a hierarchy of souls. I believe that we were all created equal, and that if we are willing to accept the Lord and His son Jesus Christ, we will be accepted into a heaven where all have equal bliss. Fr. Robert Latorre, told me that in heaven our hearts will be so filled with God's love that we will achieve perfect happiness, a happiness that removes the need for any other form of happiness.

I believe that in heaven we will see all who have died as we remember them, and we will all be together eternally, united in our love for God.

This vision of heaven helps dispel my fear of death, and my fear of the loss of loved ones, because I know that we will be reunited in paradise.

In heaven there will be no night, for God is the light of paradise, and his glory never fades. "The city had no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp is the Lamb," according to Revelation.

I believe man will again walk with God in heaven, and that He will wipe away all the sadness from our hearts. This belief comes from one of my favorite lines from the Scriptures: "He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away."

I believe that the Lord will ask us only one thing when we reach the heavenly gates: "Do you love me?" And I pray that I can truly answer: "Yes Lord, I love you."

Dante's poem tells us about the beliefs of his time. It is a beautiful poem but we must always remember that it is just a creation of man made by intellect and not divine inspiration. No one can really know heaven until he sees it, so man is left with his ideas and the ideas of past generations to help prepare for the glory that lies ahead.

Shakespeare said it best: "For in that sleep of death, what dreams may come?"

Ally de Padua, 15, is a high school student.

Missed opportunity to reach out to the poor

I BELIEVE that Jaime Cardinal Sin missed a golden opportunity to reach out in a conciliatory manner to the very poor of his flock in issuing what sounded like a blanket condemnation of the pro-Estrada demonstrators at the Edsa Shrine.

The desecration of the shrine and all the other evil things were done by a very small minority, "who did not know what they were doing." Yes, such lawlessness should be condemned. I believe it was a mistake, however, to make it the centerpiece of the cardinal's message, unwittingly implying that the demonstrators as a group were responsible and we "the good people" will wear blue and pray for them, thus promoting further polarization among our people.

The cardinal should have reached out with compassion and appealed to the crowd at Edsa, calling them his children, too, although they might have been temporarily misled by people with their own agenda. The demonstrators at Edsa last week were like everybody else. They were driven by need. Obviously, those needs were not being met by the archdiocese (and the government) but that's all the more reason to reach out to them.—**VICENTE T. VILLEGAS, 6745 Ayala Avenue, Makati City**

Second thoughts on genetically modified crops

I WOULD like to comment on the letter to the editor titled, "Bt corn field trials." (PDI, 4/19/01) There is increasing pressure from private companies and groups of scientists on the government to allow tests and eventually the use of genetically modified plants or organisms. In this case, a group of women scientists appeals to allow the conduct of tests with modified corn plants, which produce their own insecticide, making them immune against corn stem borers. The signatories argue that there are no risks involved.

In fact the euphoria about genetically manipulated crops has already ceased. There have been many blunders and, especially in Europe, most consumers are wary of food coming from such crops or animals.

It may sound like a very good idea to alter a crop through genetic engineering so that it will be not affected by a certain pest or disease. But some points should be considered.

First, the scientists involved tend not ask why pests are there. Farmers can eliminate most pest problems by changing inappropriate agricultural practices. Scientists tend to solve the problem through a technique they can develop in the laboratory and sell to farmers. That has been the case since the onset of modern agriculture. On the whole, problems have been solved by creating new ones.

This sort of problem solving overlooks the fact that life exists in communities of various plants, animals and microorganisms. So do our crops. It is unclear how such a manipulated crop will affect insect populations. In many cases the transferred gene moved also to other plants. Often totally new organisms or plants will be introduced which might produce substances, which other organisms cannot absorb or decompose. The greatest threat is that in almost all cases we may not be able to reverse the intervention with modified organisms, once we find that they are destructive. (Just think of the golden *kuhol* in our rice fields.)

Besides, in the case of the "Bt" corn and similar crops, farmers would need to always buy the seeds from the company, which developed this crop. Of course, that is why several giant corporations have invested much in this sector and expect to gain more control over the food sector. This should alarm farmers and consumers alike.

The advocates of the industry maintain that genetically manipulated crops will help to produce more food. This again is a dubious argument. First, the genetic capacity of most crops is not fully utilized because of the poor fertility of many soils. Second, so far only few farmers practice multiple cropping by combining two or more crops in one field. Such practices could contribute likewise to a much higher agricultural production. We do not need such high-risk crops. What we need is to improve our farming practices in a sustainable manner.—**WINFRIED SCHEEWE, sustainable agriculture consultant, Quintos II, 8300 Tandag, Surigao del Sur**

LETTERS

Defender of the Constitution?

IN HER posters, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago is proclaiming herself as a "Defender of the Constitution." Does she consider as part of her constitutional duties to defend and protect at all costs a corrupt president? Was she defending the Constitution when she joined the group which sought to hide the truth from the public? Was she protecting the Constitution by acting like a defense lawyer of ousted President Estrada during the impeachment trial instead of being an impartial judge?

Santiago should stop deceiving the people. She is not a protector of the 1987 Constitution but a blind defender of a president who did nothing but enrich himself at the expense of the "*masa*" whom he promised to liberate from poverty.—**RAFFY REY HIPOLITO, regional coordinator, Task Force Detainees of the Philippines-Northern Luzon, Luy Wing Bldg., Magsaysay Avenue, Baguio City**

Getting what one deserves

THE INQUIRER cited a confidential report to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo which said that "the leadership of the forces loyal to Estrada had acknowledged that funding for the Edsa activity will (be) greatly reduced."

The sad reality is that the same people who took advantage of the poor by dangling money in front of them to support the rally will be the very same ones buying their votes tomorrow.

We shouldn't feel morally superior and mock the less educated and less fortunate in any way. I think that's inexcusable. They are victims here as well. But sometimes one can't help but wonder whether or not the Filipino people will ever learn that when they to put corrupt and incompetent persons into office this is what happens.

And sometimes you just get what you deserve.—**RINA FERNANDO, mcfernando13 @yahoo.com**

Real competition will drive gas prices down

ANOTHER increase in oil prices is planned by refining companies in spite of the removal of the 3-percent duty on crude oil imports. This fact disproves the idea that any savings in production cost, transportation cost, distribution cost and even taxes and duties will help reduce gasoline prices.

The selling price of gasoline is independent of its production cost (including transport, refining, storage, distribution, etc.). What determines gasoline price in the Philippines is the limited supply of gasoline available to consumers.

Almost everyone in the country needs gasoline to move (high demand). Only three oil refining companies supply 90 percent of available gasoline. It is obvious even to non-economists that control and limitation of refined gasoline supply will result in continued price increases. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, transport, storage, distribution, foreign exchange, taxes and duties are all excuses for oil refineries to justify nonstop price hikes.

It is the control and limitation of gasoline supply which enable oil companies in this country to set gasoline prices at will. Transferring the ability to control oil supply and gasoline distribution to the Oilex, a legally created monopoly, will not bring gasoline prices down. It will only ensure that the government gets a piece of the action and collaborate with the oil refining cartel.

To bring down gasoline prices, the government must allow unlimited duty-free imports of refined gasoline from everywhere and anyone. This will provide effective competition to the existing oil refiners and cause gasoline prices to fall.

This policy will cost the government nothing compared to establishing a monstrosity called the Oilex. This act will remove effectively from the oil cartel the ability to control and limit gasoline supply, and the corresponding power to increase gasoline prices at will. Real competition among many gasoline suppliers in the market will cause gasoline prices to go down.

Another serious application of the free market competition policy is for the government to recognize the independent status of all existing gasoline dealers. The government should encourage and protect the dealers' rights to buy and sell refined gasoline from everywhere and anyone. It must be ready to file restraint-of-trade suits against oil refiners which force dealers to buy gasoline only from one source. Huge fines and economic sabotage charges should be imposed on oil refineries for violation of the free market policies.

Unlimited gasoline imports (supply) and free trade in gasoline will drive gasoline prices down. The only justifiable increase in gasoline prices will be the one caused by government's environmental standards on clean air, but that's another story.—**ALLAN TOLENTINO, Unit 9 Cosmopolitan Corner Condominium, B. Gonzales cor. Avelino Street, Xavierville II, Loyola Heights, Quezon City**

Open heart for the poor

I SHARE the sentiments of Conrado de Quiros in his column "Again, the 'dumb' masa." It is unfortunate that many people are calling those who gathered at Edsa stupid for expressing what they believed in. To condemn them is to miss the spirit of Edsa.

If there are people at whom we should really be angry, they are the likes of Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Juan Ponce Enrile, Ping Lacson, Gringo Honasan, Tito Sotto and their cohorts. They were the ones who fed the venom that poisoned the minds of the gullible among those poor people gathered at Edsa.

Instead of blaming these people who are called the "dumb *masa*" in several text messages, let us examine ourselves and look into why they are perceived as "dumb," and why they blindly follow political charlatans. From there we can proceed to analyze what we can do.

Maybe this is a very simplistic way of looking at the real issue. But don't simple problems need simple solutions? It only gets complicated when we refuse to look into the situation of others, and only push for our own interests, our own way of looking at things.

I believe there is a way to really uphold the dignity of the poor, for their own good and also for our own. I suggest we open our numb hearts wider.—**MARIO IAN MOSQUISA, Ian10mar@ net scape. net**

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A baptism of fire for Guingona

WHILE it would be better for Vice President Teofisto Guingona not to proceed to Burma on his first trip as foreign secretary, we applaud his reported desire to seek a meeting with the leader of the Burmese democratic forces, Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. Still we cringe at the prospect of his hobnobbing with the generals in Rangoon. Indeed it will be a baptism of fire for him as the new steward of our foreign policy.

The Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID), together with our colleagues in the Free Burma Coalition in the Philippines and around the world, have maintained that government representatives going to Burma on any pretext will merely be milked by the ruling junta to prop up their illegal regime. It will bestow unnecessary, if not token credence, upon this pariah state that has chained children like slaves in labor camps.

Guingona's meeting with Suu Kyi will hopefully enhance the process of political dialogue among the democratic forces, the junta and the ravaged ethnic nationalities.

There are reports that such a process between Suu Kyi and a member of the junta, Gen. Khin Nyunt, the powerful head of Burma's Intelligence Service, is going on, although there is a lack of official confirmation after more than six months of these alleged secret talks.

Suspicions and grim rumors of bad faith and trickery are beginning to surface. Guingona's meeting with Suu Kyi will perhaps help keep the dialogue process alive.

We take this opportunity to debunk claims by "anonymous" Department of Foreign Affairs officials that Suu Kyi is "not keen on receiving foreign ambassadors" and have "recognized positive developments" made by the military junta. The prime minister of the exiled National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma, Dr. Sein Wein, has in fact requested Guingona and encouraged his other Asean confreres to meet with Suu Kyi. It is apparent that these "insiders" in the DFA have swallowed the line being peddled by the ruling junta.

No wonder our foreign policy is a mess. No wonder we are so easily kicked around by our Asean colleagues even if our people are being hailed as the champions of human rights in the region. But that is another story.

The Macapagal administration has been catapulted to power by our astonishing people power. By meeting Suu Kyi—or not going to Burma at all—Guingona will only be enhancing this unique Filipino reputation. It can likewise provide the cutting edge of a hopefully democratic, bolder, enlightened and progressive foreign policy framework for this administration. It will also be some sort of a redemption for this country which sponsored the entry of Burma into the Asean several years ago.—**AUGUSTO N. MICLAT JR., executive director, Initiatives for International Dialogue, 27-G Galaxy St., GSIS Heights, Matina, Davao City**

Legitimate gripes of the poor at Edsa

IT cannot be denied. Although the rally at Edsa was organized to show support for the fallen president, many were there to express a legitimate gripe: the misery and poverty that have hounded the poor for far too long.

To dismiss the sentiments of the poor is to trample on their right to a decent life. To belittle the Edsa gathering and to condemn all the protesters is to insult our cherished freedom of expression and assembly. To focus too much on the unruly behavior of the crowd is to turn a blind eye on their more substantial concerns.

We of the Freedom from Debt Coalition urge the public to view the Edsa rally as a challenge. Despite the opportunist maneuverings and the shameless exploitation of the masses by pro-Erap leaders and corrupt politicians, we must strive to transform the overwhelming passion and commitment of our fellow Filipinos in Edsa into a fight for genuine empowerment.

The people power staged by the poor should not be a battle between personalities. It should not be a war between the Macapagal forces and Erap forces. Instead, it should be transformed into a struggle for the much-deserved rights and freedoms of the Filipinos, especially the marginalized poor.

We call on our fellow Filipinos not to allow themselves to be used by greedy politicians and self-serving individuals from the Erap camp as well as from the Macapagal camp. Let us not allow ourselves to be used as pawns by the clashing elite to serve their own selfish goals. Instead, let's fight to end the reign of elite politics and struggle to empower ourselves. Let us all unite and work for the establishment of a true democracy, a true government of the people!—**MA. TERESA DIOKNO-PASCUAL, president, Freedom from Debt Coalition, 42 Matiaga St., Central District, Quezon City**

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US loses UN human rights seat

‘Rogues’ gallery of human rights abusers’

UNITED NATIONS—The United States was voted off the UN Commission on Human Rights on Thursday, in an election which brought some notorious human rights abusers onto the Geneva-based body.

"We are disappointed at the outcome," the acting US ambassador to the United Nations, James Cunningham, told reporters after his government lost the seat it had held ever since the commission was set up in 1947.

The United States polled last among four candidates for three seats in its regional group in a ballot of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which oversees the commission.

"It won't of course affect our commitment to human rights issues, in and outside of the United Nations," Cunningham said.

But a diplomat from another Western country said the US defeat was "not necessarily a good thing, because the commission can only be active if the greatest world power takes part in its work."

About one third of the commission's 53 members are elected each year for three-year terms.

All but one of the 54 members of ECOSOC took part in the vote, and France obtained 52 votes, Austria received 41, Sweden 32 and the United States 29.

The four were competing for three seats in the group representing Western European and associated countries.

One diplomat said, however, that the result "might fuel an anti-UN campaign" in the US Congress, which has still not released $826 million in unpaid dues which it has agreed to pay the United Nations.

One factor that could enrich the fuel is the election to the commission of Sudan, Sierra Leone, Togo and Uganda, described by Human Rights Watch (HRW) as "a rogues' gallery of human rights abusers."

They were elected unopposed to four African seats.

"A country's human rights record should be the single most important factor in whether or not it joins the commission," said the UN representative for HRW, Joanna Weschler.

"An abusive country cannot honestly pass judgment on other abusive countries," she added.

Fears of those who believe the vote could strengthen anti-UN sentiment in the US Congress were reinforced by a statement by House International Relations Committee Chair Henry Hyde, who blasted "the machinations of international bureaucrats" that resulted in the United States losing the seat.

"The decision may have the unfortunate result of turning the human rights commission into just another irrelevant international organization," Hyde warned.

One diplomat speculated that recent positions taken by the administration of US President George W. Bush on climate change and on nuclear missile defense might have "added to the resentment against the US that is always under the surface."

She said the US defeat was "a surprise, given their arm-twisting power."

The United States is a member of ECOSOC and holds one of the five permanent seats on the UN Security Council.

Last year, it blocked a bid by Sudan for election by the UN General Assembly for two years to one of the 10 nonpermanent Security Council positions.

In Thursday's vote, Bahrain, South Korea and Pakistan were the successful Asian group candidates, while Iran was defeated. *AFP*

Bush gov't takes hard line approach

WASHINGTON—In his first three months in office, President George W. Bush has hardened the American line on China, North Korea and Russia. This administration sees little to gain from business as usual overseas.

As Bush put it Thursday: "We've got to review all policy that we inherited."

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld's slip this week on China policy—first suspending all military contacts, then adjusting that to require all future contacts to be approved in advance—demonstrated the difficulty of knowing how tough to get without crippling relations and undercutting US interests abroad.

And yet, as the president also made clear this week in proposing to open a new strategic dialogue with Russia, the administration's tougher stance does not mean it sees no value in pursuing cooperation.

"The president and his team genuinely have a different degree of skepticism" about the value of the diplomatic engagement with Russia, China and others that was emphasized by the Clinton administration, said Alton Frye, a foreign policy expert at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

"Once they have recalibrated a stance, then they'll do business. So this is not an end to business, this is a resetting of the baseline from which business is done." *AP*

Macedonia hits back at ethnic Albanian rebels

NEAR VAKSINCE, Macedonia—The Macedonian Army on Thursday launched a fresh offensive against ethnic Albanian guerrilla positions in the north after the gunmen killed two soldiers and seized several villages.

The renewed flare-up scotched hopes of a quick solution to the strife in the ethnically-mixed state, which has threatened to spill over into a regional war.

"We are acting with all the means at our disposal against precise targets where the terrorists are active or hiding out," said Army spokesperson Blagoja Markovski, as tank and artillery shells, as well as mortar rounds, smacked into the village of Vaksince.

Muzzle flashes from automatic weapons could also be seen in the village, as the guerrillas of the self-styled National Liberation Army (NLA) fought back.

Markovski said earlier that Army helicopters were operating in the area around Vaksince, some 15 km west of the city of Kumanovo. *AFP*

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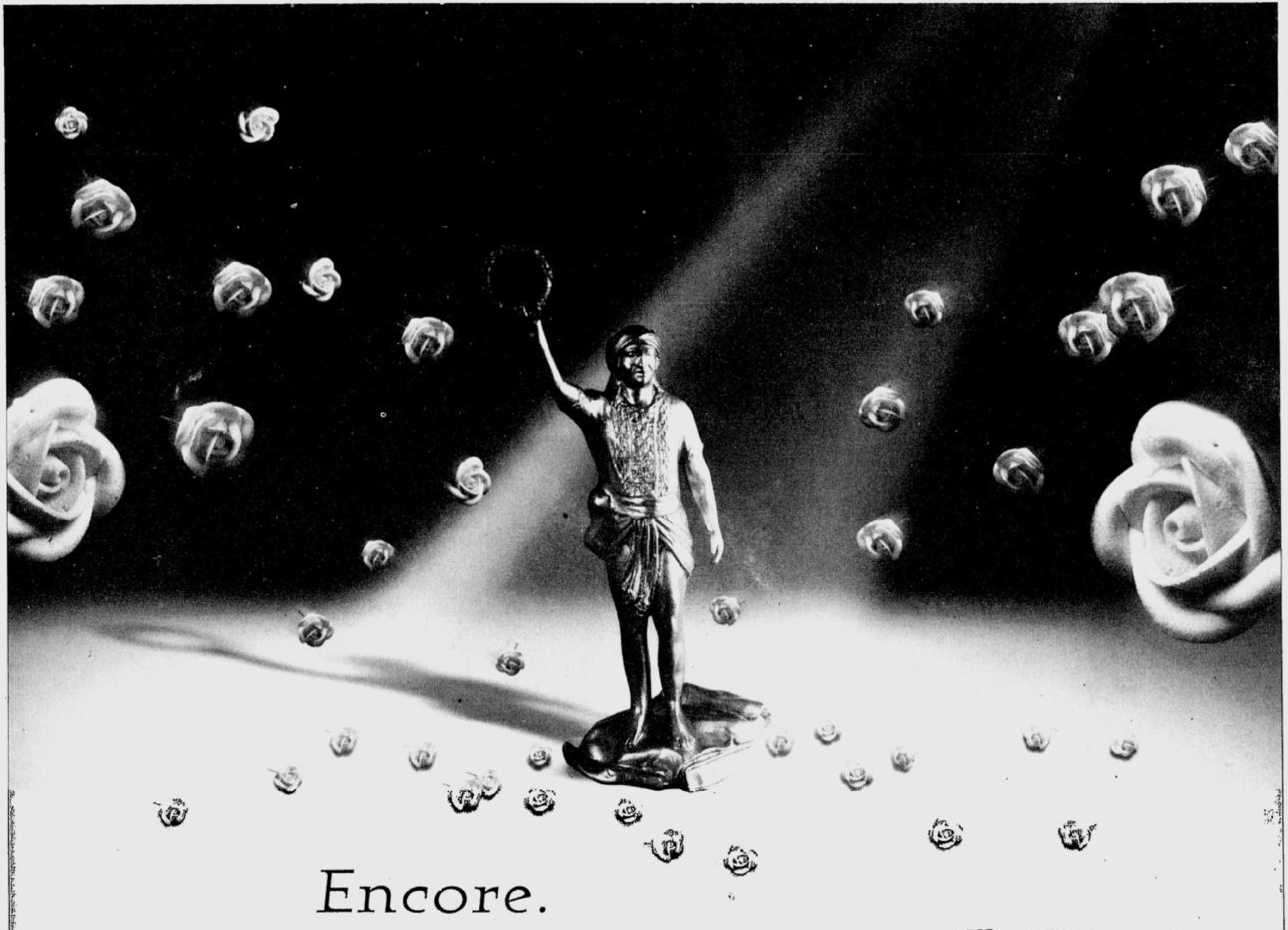

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Kim Jong-il son's mission: Mickey Mouse

KIM JONG-NAM

TOKYO—It wasn't military secrets, computer technology or industrial data that drew a man believed to be the son of North Korean leader Kim Jong-il to Japan this week.

It was Mickey Mouse.

The man, who reportedly claimed to be the communist leader's first-born, was deported to China yesterday after being accused of entering Japan with a fake passport—on an apparent mission to visit Tokyo Disneyland.

The All Nippon Airways flight arrived in Beijing later yesterday, and the man entered a van and left with a police escort. There was no indication of where the vehicles were headed.

The Japanese government refused to confirm many details about the case, only saying that the man arrived in Japan with two women and a boy on Tuesday from Singapore on forged Dominican documents.

Since then, the group had been kept at a detention center north of Tokyo for questioning, said Justice Ministry official Tadao Oe, who refused to confirm their identity or motive for coming to Japan.

But media including national broadcaster NHK and major newspapers all quoted unidentified government sources as saying the man claimed he was Kim Jong-nam, a possible heir to the reclusive North Korean leader.

"We had plans to go to Tokyo Disneyland," Kyodo News agency quoted the man as telling immigration officials. He reportedly added that he had already visited the park when he was a teenager.

If reports of the man's identity were correct, the incident provided the outside world with a rare glimpse of the shadowy figure believed to be next in line to take over one of the world's most mysterious regimes.

The man fit the image of the privileged son of a dictator. TV footage showed a portly, bespectacled man sauntering leisurely on the tarmac from a van to the jet he was deported on, glancing arrogantly at the security people around him.

Perhaps reflecting Tokyo's reluctance to provoke the hostile regime in Pyongyang—and create an embarrassing incident—officials refused to confirm the man's identity or his motive for coming to Japan. *AP*

Nokor missile test halt hailed

SEOUL—North Korea's decision to extend a moratorium on missile tests until 2003 could spur a resumption of dialogue between the North and the United States, South Korean President Kim Dae-jung said yesterday.

Kim spoke at a news conference with the head of the European Union, Goeran Persson, who was in Seoul to discuss efforts to end the decades-old enmity on the divided Korean peninsula.

Persson, Sweden's prime minister, flew to Seoul from Pyongyang Thursday after talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong-il. Kim made the missile moratorium pledge, but said there would be no inter-Korean summit as long as Washington is reviewing its policy on the North, the European delegation said.

"To win the North Korean promise to maintain its missile moratorium until 2003 is an achievement bigger than we had expected," Kim Dae-jung said. "I believe it will have a positive effect on resuming US-North Korea dialogue."

The promise to adhere to a moratorium that began in September 1999 was a significant advance in a reconciliation process that has lapsed amid US-North Korean tension.

Earlier this year, the North threatened to end the moratorium in a show of displeasure with what it perceives as a hardline policy by US President George W. Bush.

At a March meeting in Washington with Kim Dae-jung, Bush voiced skepticism about the communist North and said he would suspend talks with Pyongyang pending a policy review.

North Korea, along with China and Russia, is also upset over US plans for a missile defense system designed to thwart any attack by what Washington calls "rogue nations," including the North.

The freeze in US-North Korean ties prompted the 15-nation European Union to pursue a more prominent role as a facilitator of inter-Korean dialogue. European officials, however, have said they do not intend to supplant Washington's critical role in resolving the Cold War-era conflict.

"We will not replace the United States. It's not possible," Persson said. "It's nothing we want to do."

Persson urged North Korea to stick to accords it made with the United States, including the missile moratorium and a 1994 deal in which it agreed to shelve its suspected nuclear weapons program in exchange for the US-led construction of two nuclear reactors to meet its energy needs. *AP*

Cold welcome seen for Pope

ATHENS, Greece—When the Apostle Paul came to Athens to preach, he encountered skeptical and sullen crowds.

The reception may not be too different for Pope John Paul II, who begins a six-day pilgrimage yesterday to retrace the tent-maker's biblical journeys through Greece, Syria and Malta.

The brief stop in Athens presents the Pontiff with one of his most delicate—and potentially tumultuous—settings in 22 years of globe-trotting. For nearly 1,000 years, the Orthodox Church in Greece and its followers have looked upon the Vatican with suspicion that has often spilled into open hostility.

The ill feelings draw from potent sources: religion, ethnic pride and a perception of historical injustices.

"It is blasphemy to the memory of our saints to allow the Pope in Greece," said Athens University theologian Giorgos Metalinos at an anti-pope gathering Wednesday of more than 1,000 people.

Protesters—from monks to parish priests—plan more rallies during the Pope's 24-hour stay. They promise to drape monasteries in black and ring church bells in a symbol of mourning. Some zealots threatened to try to block the papal motorcade from reaching Areopagus hill, the judicial center of ancient Athens where Paul made his sermons in 51 AD.

But security forces are countering with extensive roadblocks and patrols by more than 5,000 police officers.

The demonstrators represent the Greek government's worse fears: that they will hijack attention away from the Pope and show the world that prosperity and modernization has not fully erased the nation's anti-Western outlook.

"These fringe groups are not the voice of Greece," insisted Foreign Ministry spokesperson Panos Beglitis.

Still, most Greeks are raised to be highly wary of Roman Catholics. *AP*

Scientists discover 'transformer' cells

WASHINGTON—US scientists have identified for the first time an adult stem cell in mice capable of transforming itself into almost any organ of the body, research that paves the way for new health treatments for humans.

The researchers, who reported their findings in yesterday's issue of the scientific journal Cell, found that stem cells identified in the bone marrow of adult mice reproduced cells that specialized to form organs as diverse as the liver, the lungs, the intestines and the skin.

Stem cells, which have the potential to develop into any organ of the body in response to certain signals, had so far been identified only in embryos.

"This is the closest adult-derived stem cell to the embryonic stem cell, which can transform itself into any organ of the body. The adult bone-marrow cell has remarkable plasticity," said Yale University researcher Diane Krause, co-author of the study. *AFP*

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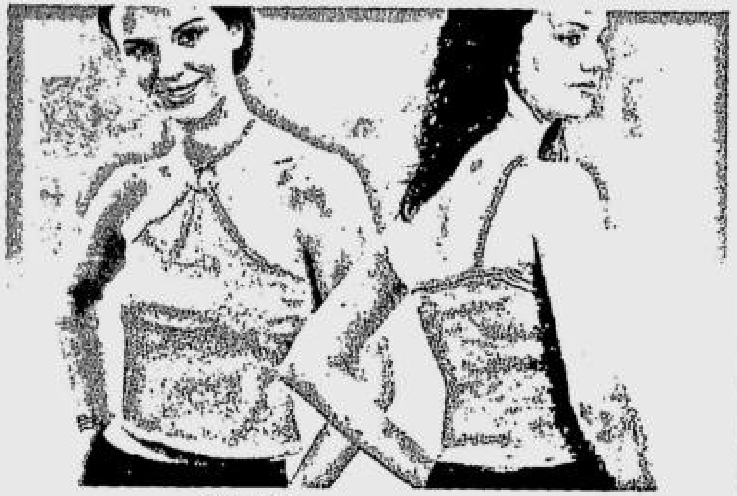

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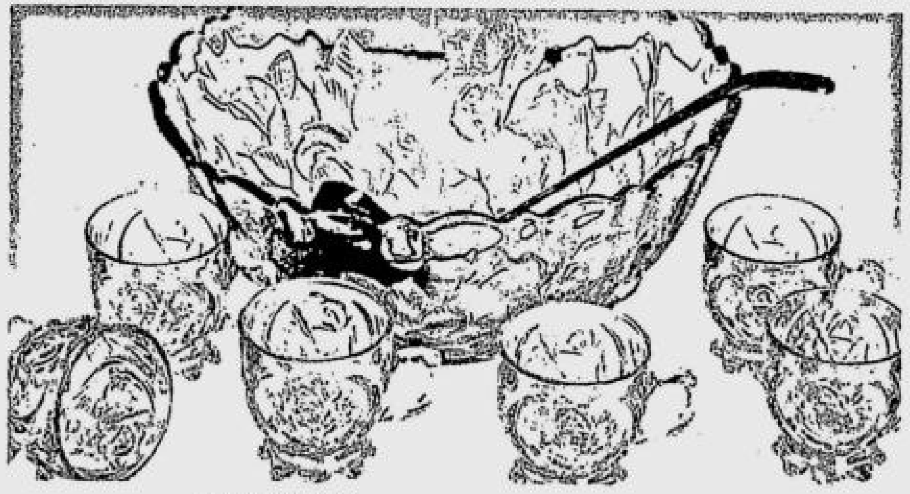

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

ROUNDUP

People's Watch formed

BAGUIO CITY—At least 20 non-government, religious, professional and media groups here formed "People's Watch" to assist voters and the Commission on Elections in ensuring peaceful elections in the city and its neighboring towns. Jeanette Ribaya, a convenor of People's Watch, said they would establish nine centers in Baguio on May 14 and 15 to help voters and the Comelec during the elections. Centers will also be established in La Trinidad, Itogon and Tuba towns in Benguet.

Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

2 towns top cleanup

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—The towns of Bani and Bolinao received P250,000 each in environmental projects for topping this year's Linis Dayat (coastal cleanup) contests. The contests, which were started in 1998 as part of the annual Pista'y Dayat (Sea Festival) celebrations in Pangasinan, seek to create environmental awareness through the provincial government's partnership with environment-friendly organizations. Last year, Bani town won P500,000 worth of projects for its riverbank protection projects, construction of Bantay Dayat (sea patrol) outposts and other environmental projects.

Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Eng'g exams reset

BAGUIO CITY—The civil engineering licensure examination (CELE) this year has been reset to May 10 and 11, the Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC) here said. A PRC bulletin said the structural engineering and construction test will be held on May 10, while the mathematics and surveying construction and hydraulics and geotechnical engineering tests will be held on May 11. Alfonso Abad, acting CELE chair, advised examinees to report to their original testing centers and room assignments before 7 a.m. on May 10 and 11.

PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

New bishop installed

BAGUIO CITY—The long-time priest of the St. Mary's Episcopalian Church in Sagada, Mt. Province was installed as the first bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Santiago (EDS) on April 25. Newly consecrated Bishop Alexander Arsay Wandag will have jurisdiction over the provinces of Isabela, Quirino, Ifugao, Kalinga, Nueva Vizcaya and some parts of Mt. Province. The EDS was created in May 1999 during the provincial synod in Isabela. Witnessing the installation of Wandag were 12 Episcopalian and Aglipayan bishops here and abroad. *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

DTI warns of promises

DIGOS CITY—The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) warned residents of Central Mindanao against falling into the trap of a dubious firm which promises a car or a house and lot in exchange for some "processing fee." Ibrahim Guiamadel, DTI Central Mindanao director, said a number of residents have already been victimized by individuals who introduced themselves as representatives of the McLean International Co. based in Clark, Angeles City. Prospective victims are informed through telephone calls or by a "representative" that they won in a raffle, which entitles them to a car or a house and lot. Victims are then instructed to deposit a certain amount into a bank account as payment for processing the release of the "prize." The amount to be deposited for the alleged processing fee varies from P10,000 to P20,000. *Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Marijuana seized

MALINAO, Albay—Police seized 2.2 kilos of marijuana in brick form from a tricycle passenger at a Commission on Elections checkpoint in Barangay Estancia here the other day. Chief Insp. Adan Magdasoc, town chief of police, identified the suspect as Domingo Bo, 30, a discharged Philippine Marine soldier, who had just arrived from Metro Manila. Magdasoc said he was inspecting Bo's bag in implementation of the Comelec gun ban when he smelled something like marijuana, which they found inside Bo's bag. "When my policemen were searching the bag, Bo disembarked from the tricycle then ran toward a dark area," Magdasoc added. He said they pursued Bo but to no avail.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila HI 35° Lo 25°	Baguio HI 27° Lo 16°	Tuguegarao HI 35° Lo 23°	Laoag HI 35° Lo 23°
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Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

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Gloria uses Lapid to woo Estrada's 'masa' to her

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—"Is there a secretary of the urban poor?" Pampanga Gov. Manuel Lapid asked in characteristic humor. The actor-turned-governor admitted knowing there's none.

But he said he seemed to be the man cut for the task, to become even the "*agimat ni* Gloria *sa masa* (President Macapagal-Arroyo's amulet to attract the poor)" to woo the urban poor, who comprised the bulk of those who stormed Malacañang last Tuesday.

Lapid, an action star also popular with the masses like deposed president Joseph Estrada, has actually been playing the role to the hilt in poor communities in Metro Manila where many of the loyalists of his erstwhile movie colleague, friend and political patron live.

Slum visits

On Wednesday, he visited the slum areas of Payatas in Quezon City. On Thursday, he was in Guadalupe in Makati City. On Friday, he said he was scheduled to visit squatter families in Fairview, also in Quezon City.

Accompanied by Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman and other department heads, Lapid helped distribute packs of relief goods in these areas.

While the Department of Health held medical missions there, Lapid said he talked with slum dwellers, asking them their problems and their needs—precisely what President Macapagal-Arroyo wants him to do for her administration.

As Lapid made the rounds of the slum areas, his aides said residents chanted "Idol! Idol!"

Even die-hard Estrada fans sidled up to Lapid, shaking his hands, hugging him and inviting him for small chats, one of his two security aides said.

The 45-year-old governor said the President also asked him to relay this message to the masses: That the administration is "sincere and serious in its plans for the poor."

No appointment

In doing these tasks, Lapid said he got no official appointment from the President.

"And I don't get a salary for the job," he told the Inquirer by phone from Fairview.

An opposition mayor in Pampanga found it a "clever move" of the administration to be exploiting the popularity of Lapid to get a pulse of how the masses feel after Tuesday's violent riots.

"They are neutralizing the poor but let us see if the Macapagal-Arroyo administration would truly serve the masses," said the Pampanga mayor, who asked not be identified.

Lapid brushed aside the suspicion, saying it was only right for the administration to get a real sense of the plight of the poor and their perception of the new administration.

He said he and Ms Macapagal have set no timetable for his tasks.

"Indefinite *sa ngayon*," he said.

Daily schedule

Lapid said his daily schedule would be spent visiting and holding dialogues in slum areas in the morning. The afternoon would be for political campaigns in Pampanga where he is seeking reelection for his third and final term.

Edgardo Pamintuan, National Housing Authority general manager, described Lapid's role in the pro-poor programs of the administration as only temporary.

"The governor is helping initiate dialogues. The long-term solution to their discontent and legitimate grievances are long-term and sustainable programs in urban poor mass housing which will have to be complemented by livelihood components," Pamintuan said in a telephone interview.

LAPID

Digos folk bet on candidates' chances

DIGOS CITY—That elections are a gamble for most politicians could not be truer here as some residents are now betting on who among the local candidates would win come May 14.

The so-called gamblers here admitted they are only cashing in on their belief that their candidates would win the elections.

Bets are being placed on gubernatorial candidates Reynerio Llanos and Vice Governor Antonio Sunga; congressional rivals reelectionist Rep. Douglas Cagas and Pablo Villaber, who was recently disqualified by the Commission on Elections; and reelectionist Mayor Arsenio Latasa and Vice Mayor Romeo Sunga.

"Actually, I do not call this gambling but just for the fun of it," a bettor said.

Bets could go as high as P500 among ordinary voters but reports reaching the Inquirer indicated that among moneyed individuals, the minimum stake is P100,000.

Aside from the winning chances of candidates, the controversial case between Latasa and Sunga also drew people to place their bets on who between the two would emerge victors.

There are those who are betting that Latasa would finally be disqualified. The Inquirer was even dared to gamble P2,000 that Latasa would be disqualified.

"You'll surely win," a bettor said.

The bet was not placed and Latasa was just disqualified from running as mayor of this city because he had already served three terms as mayor when Digos was still a town.

Latasa may appeal the decision, however.

Earlier, Sunga petitioned the Comelec to disallow Latasa's candidacy because the incumbent mayor had already met the three-year term limit set by the Constitution and the Local Government Code of 1991.

On April 27, the poll body's 1st division ruled that Latasa has indeed violated the three-term rule and ordered his certificate of candidacy be stricken out.

But Latasa filed an appeal, which resulted in a status quo.

While gambling in local politics has gained a momentum, people here seem not to care who will win in the national level.

"The only time people mention the names of senatorial candidates is when discussions center on who are pro-Erap and who are not," Manuel Cedaña, a self-proclaimed political analyst, said.

It seems ironic that while most people had condemned Estrada for allegedly receiving bribe from the operations of jueteng nationwide, many people still find gambling a favorite pastime.

The case of Digos and its bettors is one example. *Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Isabela gov bet declared 'nuisance'

ILAGAN, Isabela—The Commission on Elections has disqualified former Angadanan Mayor Manuel Syquian from the gubernatorial race in the province after the poll body declared him a "nuisance candidate."

The Comelec first division disqualified Syquian in its order dated April 22, leaving Rep. Faustino Dy Jr. unopposed in Isabela's gubernatorial race on May 14.

Syquian, Lakas-Bileg party candidate, twice ran and lost for governor to Gov. Benjamin Dy and once lost for vice governor against Vice Gov. Edwin Uy in the past three elections.

Cauayan City Vice Mayor Constante Foronda, a lawyer and close ally of the Dy family, earlier filed a disqualification case against Syquian, citing Syquian's losses when he ran for governor and vice governor.

Foronda claimed that Syquian filed his certificate of candidacy for governor in several previous elections "without any bonafide intention to pursue his candidacy."

Syquian filed a motion for reconsideration and asked the Comelec en banc to rule on the decision of the first division.

He also appealed to the Comelec to give him due process, citing the dissenting opinion of Comelec commissioner Resurreccion Borra that allegations should not be used as basis for disqualification.

Borra, in his dissenting opinion, said the Comelec could not disqualify Syquian based "merely on self-serving allegations that failed to substantiate with clear and convincing evidence."

He said the Comelec should have dismissed the case outright for insufficiency of evidence and lack of merit.

Foronda said Syquian is running as an "independent" without any political slate and never got serious in his campaign sorties.

He added that Syquian was convicted to suffer from five to eight years in jail for falsification of public documents in 1992.

But in his affidavit on March 23, Syquian said former President Fidel Ramos granted him a conditional and absolute pardon on Nov. 27 and Dec. 22, 1992, respectively, that restored his full civil and political rights.

Because of the pardon, Syquian said he was not detained and was never disqualified in the 1998 elections. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

NO BALLOTS, REGISTRARS

Signs of poll delay start to surface

By Carla Gomez *PDI Visayas Bureau*
and Jun Malig *PDI Central Luzon Desk*

BACOLOD CITY—The Commission on Elections here expressed concern over the delay in the arrival of more than 1.2 million ballots and other election paraphernalia for Negros Occidental.

Cirilio Nala, Comelec provincial supervisor, said the election materials were expected to arrive on Tuesday after Raul Vasquez from the Comelec central office told him that these were sent through a forwarder on Monday.

Vasquez is in charge of the distribution of election paraphernalia for Western Visayas.

But the shipment of ballots, election returns, statement of voters, and other blank forms had not arrived at the Comelec office as of yesterday.

Nala said the town and city treasurers were already complaining about the delay in the arrival of election paraphernalia because they only had 11 more days to prepare for the May 14 elections.

The towns and city treasurers are supposed to distribute the election paraphernalia to different board of election inspectors assigned in every precinct.

Nala said he was having difficulty tracing the shipment because he was not provided with the name of the private forwarder and the shipping documents.

He said he already told his personnel to keep calling up the Comelec central office in Manila and follow up the shipment.

Nala said the Comelec had no official forwarder to ensure the safety of vital election materials. "They use any forwarder to expedite shipment," he added.

In San Fernando City, Pampanga, less than two weeks before the May 14 elections, the Comelec has yet to appoint election registrars in Masantol and San Simon towns.

No election registrar has been assigned by the Comelec in Masantol while the official assigned in San Simon is on sick leave, Comelec officials here said.

Lawyer Temie Lambino, Comelec provincial election supervisor, however, assured that the poll body would appoint election registrars in the towns before the elections.

Lambino also said the additional ballot boxes he requested from the Comelec main office in Manila have yet to arrive.

He said the request for additional ballot boxes was made because ballot boxes containing ballots under electoral protest during the 1998 elections cannot be used for the May 14 elections.

The electoral protests involving the 1998 mayoral race in the towns of Mabalacat, Sasmuan and San Luis have yet to be resolved by the Comelec, Lambino said.

He also announced over a radio interview here on Thursday that all 875,291 registered voters in Pampanga should have received their respective voter's information lists by this time.

However, many voters asked by the Inquirer in various parts of Pampanga said Friday that they have not received their voter's information lists.

Areas with the biggest number of voters in Pampanga include Angeles City with 125,960 voters, City of San Fernando with 85,288 voters and Mabalacat town with 71,013 registered voters.

Comelec disqualifies bet convicted of estafa

DIGOS CITY—The Commission on Elections ordered the disqualification of a convicted swindler who is running as congressman in Davao del Sur's first district.

In an order dated April 30, the Comelec's 2nd division presided by Commissioner Ralph Lantion, sustained the petition of Rep. Douglas Cagas that Pablo Villaber is not fit to seek or hold any public office, because the crime for which he was convicted constitutes moral turpitude.

On March 2, 1990, Villaber was sentenced to a year of imprisonment by then Manila RTC-15 Judge Eloy Bello for issuing a bouncing check to a businessman. Bello's decision was affirmed with finality by the Supreme Court in 1992.

Despite his conviction, Villaber was never imprisoned because the warrant of arrest against him could not be enforced.

Lawmen serving the warrant told the court that Villaber could not be found in the addresses he provided when the case was still being heard.

On March 22, agents of the National Bureau of Investigation arrested him while he was campaigning here.

Villaber maintained that his conviction under Batas Pambansa Bilang 22 does not constitute moral turpitude citing a ruling by the high court in Vaca vs Court of Appeals and Rosa Lim vs People of the Philippines.

But the Comelec said the cases cited by Villaber "merely admonished the lower court to observe certain guidelines in the imposition of the proper penalty in the crime of violation of BP Blg. 22."

The Comelec also rejected Villaber's claim that his conviction was not final.

"Decisions of the Supreme Court are not promulgated by a lower court from where the appealed case originated," the decision added.

"In short, the respondent has merely falsified a public document in order to mislead this commission into believing that the judgement of conviction against him has already been set aside," it concluded.

In yet another decision, the Comelec's 1st division also ordered that incumbent City Mayor Arsenio Latasa be disqualified for having met the term limit imposed on elected officials by the Constitution and the Local Government Code of 1991.

In its April 27 decision, the 1st division chaired by Commissioner Rufino Javier ruled that Latasa's claim that he should be allowed to run again because this is his first time to run as city mayor, is false.

Edgardo Sadili, Comelec provincial election assistant however, clarified that in both cases, the respondents are entitled to an appeal.

Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Ex-Santiago City mayor charged with 2 murders

SANTIAGO CITY—Former Mayor Jose Miranda and four others on Wednesday were charged with double murder for the slaying of two men in Barangay Purok ni Bulan in Ramon town in 1996.

Miranda, who is running for mayor under the Partido ng Masang Pilipino-Kalikasan, was accused of masterminding the killings of Elizer Tuliao and Vicente Bauzon.

Charged with Miranda were SPO2 Alberto Dalmacio, PO3 Romeo Ocon, Boyet de la Cruz and a certain Amado.

Miranda dismissed the charges as politically motivated, saying his political enemies are behind the cases.

Virgilio Tuliao, father of Elizer, filed the charges before Santiago City Prosecutor Moises Aquino.

The elder Tuliao tagged Miranda as the mastermind in the abduction and murder of his son and Bauzon, whose bodies were burned in Barangay Nibulan in Ramon, Isabela on March 7, 1996.

The filing of charges came after dismissed PO2 Rodel Maderal agreed to turn state witness against Miranda whom he tagged as the brains behind the murders.

Maderal was earlier arrested by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) for his alleged participation in the killings.

In his affidavit on April 17 before the NBI, Maderal accused Miranda of ordering him to kill Tuliao and Bauzon in exchange for money.

Earlier, the younger Tuliao implicated Miranda in jueteng operations in the city before an investigation conducted by the Senate blue ribbon committee chaired by then Sen. Heherson Alvarez, a known political rival of Miranda.

Miranda said he was surprised why the affidavit of Maderal, whom he described as a relative of Alvarez, was done only on April 17 this year when he was arrested much earlier.

He said Maderal might have been pressured to drag his name in the case.

He said he would file his counter-affidavit when he receives a copy of the charges. *Villamor Visaya Jr. with a report from Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Aetas displaced by war games seek US troops' food

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Some 50 Aeta families who moved out of the Crow Valley firing range in Capas, Tarlac on Tuesday were demanding food rations from Filipino and American soldiers scheduled to do four gunnery exercises in the area under the Visiting Forces Agreement's Balikatan-01.

Maj. Allan Ballesteros, public information officer of the Philippine Air Force's (PAF) 1st Tactical Operations Wing based in Clark, confirmed this on Thursday.

The Aetas, he said, especially want the American troopers to give them their supply of ready-to-eat meal packs.

Nelson Pangilinan, chief of the Federation of Tribal Councils in Tarlac, told the INQUIRER, however, that the Aetas of Tarukan Village simply wanted shares of rice and vegetables.

The Aetas, according to Pangilinan, have not been able to stock up on food since they just began planting root crops last month in the newly revived village located 10 kilometers east of the Mt. Pinatubo volcano.

Concerned of safety, Ballesteros said the PAF, which manages the Crow Valley firing range, has advised the Aetas to transfer to Sta. Juliana, some four kilometers from Tarukan even as they do not reside within the impact area.

The Aetas, according to him, were familiar with this standard operating procedure whenever target-shooting exercises were held in Crow Valley, a 17,000-hectare military reservation of the government in upland Tarlac near the boundaries of Pampanga and Zambales.

Elmer Cato, spokesperson of the Presidential Commission on the VFA (VFACOM), on Thursday said he was coordinating with the Department of Social Welfare and Development to provide food rations to the Aetas.

By Cato's estimate, the Aetas would need food supply for three days.

One of the four gunnery practices under Balikatan-01, a large-scale exercise held under the VFA since April 27, was postponed Wednesday due to bad weather in the area, he said.

The practices would resume Friday until the weekend, he added.

Maj. Douglas Harding, American information officer of the Balikatan-01's combined joint information bureau, said the Aetas are safe since the gunnery exercises would not use live bombs but inert bombs that do not contain explosives.

Just the same, Harding said the Aetas were advised not to gather the spent shells since these have sharp edges.

Ballesteros said the PAF was sealing the area from the civilian population during the duration of the gunnery practices.

In a related development, Cato said the Air Transportation Office (ATO) has agreed to the suggestion of the VFACOM to adjust the flight lines of low-flying Balikatan helicopters in the Angeles City area. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Woman killed in ambush in Samar town

By Vicente Labro
and Joey Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—A woman was killed Wednesday night after she was hit by a stray bullet during an ambush in a hinterland village of Sta. Margarita, Samar.

Police identified the fatality as Charita Ortiz, 24, a resident of Barangay Cinco, Sta. Margarita.

Ortiz was in the company of one Pepito Catalan when waylaid by seven unidentified men in fatigue uniform. Catalan, reportedly wanted by authorities for murder charges, was said to be the real target of the ambush, police said.

Police said seven unidentified men armed with M-16 Armalite rifles, 9mm and caliber .45 pistols waylaid Catalan near Barangay Cinco about 7 p.m. Wednesday, but Catalan was able to escape.

The attack happened just hours after an ambush in nearby Calbayog City that injured a reelectionist councilor and eight others and killed five persons, including the wife of the reelectionist councilor.

Insp. Carlos Vencio, operations officer of the Samar police office, said they were looking into the possibility that the two ambushes Wednesday were related considering the proximity of the ambush scenes. Calbayog is just 1.8 kilometers from Sta. Margarita.

He added that they were also verifying a report that Ortiz was a youth leader of a local politician.

Vencio said a 30-man police team was sent to hunt the gunmen.

Adolfo Ibañez, Commission on Elections regional director, said he would support moves to place Calbayog under Comelec control and supervision.

The plan to place the city under Comelec control came after the ambush early Wednesday along the national highway between Barangays Marcatubig and Bantian, Tinambacan District of the city.

Among those killed was Rose Tamidles, wife of reelectionist Councilor Nestor Tamidles who was also wounded in the attack.

The couple and their companions were riding in a van on their way to Calbayog when fired upon by 15 unidentified armed men around 12:20 a.m. Wednesday.

The other fatalities were identified as Rosalinda Rosalado, Rosario Masdo, Gerlito Tolob and Gilbert Hingi.

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234412 732302 409246 323479 138418 200719 605041
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855702 482357 836082 249921 475307 544262 788749
832163 646957 478252 436015 169427 328163 417348
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CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Poll body disqualifies bet over residence case

By Vicente Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—A municipal trial court h[illegible] has ordered the removal from the voters' list in a precinct of Burauen, Leyte the name of congressional candidate Carlos Romualdez, a son of Tacloban City Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez.

His exclusion from the list of voters would mean that Carlos Romualdez is no longer qualified to run in the congressional race in the second district of Leyte, where Burauen belongs.

Carlos is, however, expected to file an appeal to the court's ruling.

Carlos is the third member of the Romualdez clan who is running for an elective post in May 14. His father is running for reelection as mayor of Tacloban while his brother, Alfred, is also seeking reelection as representative of the first district of Leyte.

MTC Judge Camilo Esmero ordered on April 30 the exclusion of the name of Carlos Romualdez from the voters' list of Precinct No. 11-A, District 3 of Burauen, Leyte after declaring that he is not a bonafide resident of the town.

Esmero also directed the Election Registration Board of Burauen to remove the names of Carlos' wife Erlinda Reyes Romualdez, their two children Miguel and Mark and their househelp Decebura Pacanza from the same list of voters.

Esmero said the court found that Carlos and his family and househelp "are not bonafide residents of Burauen . . . hence they do not qualify to register as voters in Burauen, Leyte, and their registration is illegal and not in accordance with and violates the election laws on residence."

The court said that when Carlos and his family applied for registration as voters of Burauen on May 9 and 11, 2000, they [illegible] not acquired residence in Burauen, Ley[illegible] (were) complete strangers to the place."

The court reached this conclusion after it obtained records which showed that it was also on May 9, 2000 when Carlos Romualdez and his family actually rented the house of spouses Juanito and Fe Renomeron in Burauen.

The court was acting on a case filed against the members of the Burauen election registration board and the Romualdezes by Estela Soro, Evangeline Raga and Angelino Apostol, all residents and registered voters of Burauen.

Prior to his registration in Burauen, Carlos and his family were found to be registered residents of Mariposa Loop, Bagong Lipunan Ng Crame, Quezon City, the court said.

Carlos is running for congressman in the second district of Leyte under the Nationalist People's Coalition.

He is running against Leyte Vice Gov. Trinidad Apostol of the Lakas-NUCD-UMDP, who is the wife of outgoing district Rep. Sergio Apostol.

Tarlac dad runs for vice mayor

ANDRES "Andy" David-Lacson, councilor in Concepcion, Tarlac, is now running for vice mayor of the town.

During his term as councilor, the 34-year-old Lacson initiated several programs for education, youth and sports, public utilities and transportation, health and sanitation, agriculture and environment.

Lacson authored and enacted into law several resolutions, like the creation of a municipal scholarship fund and the establishment of a local district office for the Land Transportation Office (LTO) in Concepcion.

Lacson also proposed an ordinance incorporating the life history of the late Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino in the academic curriculum of elementary and secondary students of Concepcion.

He proposed a resolution for the establishment of a public employment service in Concepcion and conceptualized and proposed a basketball sports program.

Lacson's three-point government agenda consists of transparency, honesty and service-oriented system, and close coordination with the people.

In the council, Lacson was chair of the committee on rules and ethics, vice chair of the committee on education, trade and industry, health and sanitation and NGOs and cooperative.

He was the liaison officer on youth affairs for Rep. Jesli Lapus, secretary and later chair of the Sangguniang Kabataan of San Bartolome.

Lacson is a business management graduate from the Angeles University Foundation, where he also obtained a master's degree in public administration. He was a consistent honor student in elementary and high school.

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An Arroyo invention

BREAKAWAY

Ivan P. Suansing

THERE are durable rebellions, like the really protracted war being waged by Joma Sison's boys, and there are one-day wonders, like the May 1 uprising of Estrada loyalists.

Government authorities may at anytime arrest a New People's Army (NPA) cadre who is bent on seizing power even if takes him another lifetime to do it, but how can they now justify the warrantless arrest of Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Gringo Honasan, Panfilo Lacson and the rest of the alleged instigators of the suicidal Mendiola march?

The "rebellion of the masses" ended on the same day it began, when President Arroyo, facing her first real challenge, called in the Armed Forces to pulverize the marchers. It wasn't even exciting. Rocks and *dos-por-dos* against the best weaponry that could be found in the military arsenal. No match.

Is there, to this day, a continuing rebellion in Metro Manila? (Was there a rebellion to begin with?)

To hold so is to stretch reality beyond belief. Aside from the usual "intelligence reports" about alleged movements of armed, rebellious soldiers and assassination plots, there's absolutely no trace of "Edsa 3" left.

Law professors say the purpose of arresting persons involved in a rebellion is to quell the rebellion itself. A government fighting for survival has no immediate interest in prosecuting the rebels, or the time to follow procedure. Hence, the arrest need not follow the usual procedure in the prosecution of offenses, which requires the determination by a judge of probable cause before the issuance of a warrant of arrest.

But precisely because there's no more threat to her administration's existence—the President herself has broadly hinted at lifting the declaration of the state of rebellion on Monday—the government's continuing crackdown on the alleged plotters has taken a political color.

The May 1 rabble rousers have been taught their lesson, is it now time to smash the Pwersa ng Masa candidates?

* * *

THE RULE. What's the difference between Edsa 2 and Edsa 3?

Edsa 2 succeeded, its leaders went on to become heroes and clinch high government positions. Edsa 3 failed, Juan Ponce Enrile and Ernesto Maceda are now in jail, their "co-plotters" are on the run.

The rule is not to try to seize power—unless and until victory is assured.

After several coup attempts during the Aquino administration, one would think Gringo Honasan has become wiser.

* * *

NEW CRIME. In "Debate" last Thursday, lawyer JV Bautista pointed out that if a faction of the military now attempts a power grab, the crime will not be rebellion but coup d'etat, a new offense included in the penal code after the RAM misadventures.

Bautista, who used to entertain members of the College Editors Guild of the Philippines (CEGP) with off-keyed numbers, also sensed something sinister in the government's declaration of a state of rebellion, an "Arroyo invention."

Is this a prelude to martial law?

The people can't afford to lower their guard and lose their freedoms. This government may have a pretty face, but human rights groups are wary of all the generals behind it.

Political volcano simmers in Canlaon after killings

By ALEX PAL
Barangay Budlasan, Canlaon City

ABOUT 20 empty sardine cans are still strewn on a lonely uphill road sandwiched by a ravine and a sugarcane field here, where armed men waited for hours and later ambushed the convoy of mayoral candidate Jose Cardenas on Friday last week.

Down the road leading to the river, a bloodied jacket remains plastered on a rock—the only marker on this infamous site.

"The (perpetrators) must have camped there for quite some time," said a Canlaon policeman, looking over the items recovered from the scene which included a pack of dried fish, two servings of rice and other sardine cans.

There also was an unfinished bottle of Revicon and an empty packet of Pharmaton vitamins.

Cardenas, vice mayor of Canlaon, and his party must have passed by the gunmen that morning, but the gunmen chose not to attack the convoy then.

"I warned Ondo (Jose) that he would be ambushed if he attended the Budlasan rally," said Sergio Canopin, one of Cardenas' campaign leaders, "but he dismissed the report as a ploy to prevent him from attending the rally."

Everything went well. Or so it seemed. The rally went on as scheduled and they headed for home. They reached Sitio Pinamintigan about half past four in the afternoon and were negotiating the uphill climb from the river when the sound of a Carbine rifle shook the still countryside.

EVIDENCE of an ambush—Cardenas' pickup with bullet holes and other signs of a fierce attack. ALEX PAL

Spitting fire

This was followed by the sound of rapid gunfire. Everyone scampered for safety. They could tell where the sound was coming from but they couldn't see anyone behind the bushes. "We only saw the trees spitting out fire," said Jose Lara, a political supporter of Cardenas.

The armed men concentrated their attack on the second vehicle—the Isuzu pickup used by Cardenas. They pumped bullets into it from M-16 and M-14 rifles and M-203 grenades.

The firing must have lasted for 20 minutes, recalled Canopin, who was about 20 feet from Cardenas.

Cardenas, although hit by the first volley of fire, was still trying to move out of the vehicle and into the ditch.

Driver Calvin Neri also tried to shoot it out with their attackers using a handgun but was shot dead after he ran out of bullets.

Most of the bullets were aimed at the right side of the vehicle. This allowed Councilor Hernani Blanco, who was sitting behind the driver, to escape unharmed.

Canopin recalled that he soon heard the attackers' leader order his band: "*Dali*, assault! *I*-clear *si* Ondo! *Siguraduhin yan kung patay na*! (Hurry, assault! Get a clear view of Ondo. Make sure he is dead!)"

"I counted 13 of our attackers pass by me, mostly dressed in fatigue tops and shorts. They were wearing bonnets and others were covered with leaves. I couldn't tell if they were men or women but I heard a woman's voice say '*Sukol pa ka 'do*! (Try to fight back, 'do)," Canopin said.

Then they opened the door of the pickup and fired on the vice mayor using an M-14 rifle at close range, hitting the head and neck. After which, they got Cardenas' cellphone.

"*Mga* NPA *kami* (We are the New People's Army)," Canopin remembered their attackers as saying.

He said they even asked forgiveness from the wounded and the survivors, explaining that it was only the vice mayor whom they were after.

"After they left, I loaded (the vice mayor's body) at the back of the pickup and gave priority to Jessica (Jose's sister), who was still alive. I was able to travel some distance before the engine conked out," Canopin said.

Five people were killed here that fateful day—Jose "Ondo" Cardenas, Canlaon City administrator Hospicio Condes Jr., also the local campaign manager of the Lakas-NUCD-People Power Coalition, the party under which Cardenas was running for mayor; driver Calvin Neri, Telesforo Fajardo and Ricardo Ocag.

Another victim, Councilor Jessica Cardenas, who was seeking reelection under his brother's ticket, was to die later.

The target

There must have been about a hundred people who were travelling with Cardenas' convoy, but the fatalities were all passengers of one vehicle—the Isuzu double cab pickup that the vice mayor was in.

Those injured were Jose's running mate Jimmy Clerigo, who had to be flown to Cebu for immediate surgery; and their supporters—Nick Malones, Ramil Salazar, Helen Tano, Julius Dellonardo, Jose Lara, Julius Escala and Aurelio Cagatin.

Not all of the injured were hit by bullets. Lara, for one, suffered scratches all over his body after he jumped into a ravine.

Just a few hours later, a man claiming to represent the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army Guerrilla Command 3 operating on Negros Island told a radio station in Bacolod City in Negros Occidental that Cardenas was killed because of his "sins against the people."

That was the closest thing to a written admission, which the CPP-NPA usually does after a similar operation.

From his nearby farm barely 100 meters away from the scene of the crime, Paulino Baricuatro could hear the gunfire and feared the worst. "I feared an ambush was taking place and I hid in my house out of fear, only to come out by morning," he said.

A resident of this area since 1952, Baricuatro said he felt very sorry for Cardenas, whom he called his candidate. "He was a good mayor. If we had problems, he would immediately act on them," he said.

Canopin also said Cardenas was an acknowledged unbeatable candidate. "They've been saying that the vice mayor could only lose the elections if he was a dead man."

Political angle

Jose's political opponent, mayoral candidate Julius Amador of the Nationalist People's Coalition, immediately dismissed a political angle to the incident. "I have nothing to do with this incident whatsoever. What I know is that someone called up a Bacolod radio station and said it was the NPA who did it," he said.

The Cardenas family, however, believes that politics was at the root of this crime. "The military just wants us to believe that this was done by the NPA so that the case would be closed," Jose's brother, Wagner, said.

No date has yet been set for the victims' burial but "if I had my way," Wagner said, "I'll have Ondo and Jessica buried only after the elections so I'll show (the people) who actually did this."

With barely 15 days to go before May 14, who's to tell what the elections will be like?

Tempers are rising in Canlaon. Unless something good happens very soon, the Friday ambuscade would have signaled an imminent explosion of a different kind of volcano.

Use of technology in campaign draws in crowd

AN UNUSUAL campaign for the heir of a long-time political clan.
PHOTO COURTESY OF ZALDIVAR CAMPAIGN

By HAZEL VILLA
San Jose, Antique

IN THIS mountainous province of Antique, local politicians hew to the age-old campaign gimmick of roaming vehicles blaring out jingles, posters everywhere, supporters giving out leaflets, sorties and the ever-reliable candidate-sponsored dances in the barrios.

Traditional ways of campaigning are normally met with indifference by the voters of Antique. Their ears are by now immune to murdered Gov. Evelio Javier's song, "Impossible Dream" and other popular tunes that have been musically mangled beyond recognition just to fit the rhyme of the candidates' names and their slogans.

Thus, when a 33-year-old independent candidate for vice governor started to go around Antique's towns and barangays campaigning with a laptop, a projector and a white portable screen—the voters took notice.

Calixto Zaldivar III, independent candidate for vice governor of Antique, has already brought his Power Point presentation to more than eight locations since April 15 and it has never failed to draw in the crowds.

Zaldivar is up against incumbent board members Errol Santillan (Nationalist People's Coalition) and Roberto Operiano (Lakas-NUCD).

In a poor province where majority of the people has never seen a computer, much less hear the term "Power Point," Zaldivar's campaign gimmick was worth their attention even if he goes to their barangays already late at night.

"I used the Power Point presentation not only because it has curiosity value but because I wanted to inform the voters about my platform in the clearest possible way," said Zaldivar.

Zaldivar, an incumbent board member, has used the best features of Microsoft's Power Point program to air his ideals, platform and bloodline.

His 14-minute presentation reminded voters of the candidate's political lineage as the eldest son of Enrique Zaldivar, former Antique governor, congressman and now ambassador to Brunei.

It also showed Zaldivar III's plan to continue his father's dream for Antique's progress that has been the trademark of his grandfather, Calixto Zaldivar, the first justice of the Supreme Court who hailed from Antique.

Zaldivar III's rallying cry is "*Bag-ong politiko kag tuod nga serbisyo publiko* (New politician and true public service)."

His platform dealt mainly with eradicating injustice and poverty in Antique. He also presented his specific plans for the youth, fishermen and farmers.

News about Zaldivar III's Power Point presentation has reached other towns. His staff said they have received numerous invitations asking it to be shown in their barangays.

"They want to see what this Power Point is all about," said Mary Rose Rodriguez, a staff member of Zaldivar III.

Rodriguez said most of the invitations came from heads of the Sangguniang Kabataan.

"With the Power Point, I want to show to the people of Antique that I really mean progress. It is also a practical way of campaigning," said Zaldivar III.

The laptop and the connector cost P50,000 while the projector was borrowed from a friend.

When he is not available to personally campaign, Zaldivar III sends his campaign supporters to show the Power Point in places that have asked for the presentation.

The Power Point show will also highlight Zaldivar III's grand rally on May 12 at the Evelio Javier Freedom Park in the capital town of San Jose.

"There were many requests for the Power Point show, so we decided to make it even better but shorter during the grand rally," said Rodriguez.

So that the Power Point presentation would not steal the thunder from the candidate, Zaldivar III said he will personally deliver a speech "that will be punctuated by drum rolls and fireworks in the air."

SC asked to annul state of rebellion

(From page A1)

Opposition Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and former Ambassador to the United States Ernesto Maceda were arrested without warrants after the siege of Malacañang on May 1 on suspicion that they were among those who plotted to overthrow Ms Macapagal.

Enrile and Maceda have submitted petitions for habeas corpus to the Supreme Court questioning their warrantless arrest.

In her petition, Tolentino pointed out the following:

- There is no rebellion in Metro Manila.
- The courts, rather than the justice department, have the power to issue warrants of arrest.
- The arrest of Enrile and Maceda and impending arrest without warrant of other Estrada allies were/will be illegal.
- The declaration of a state of rebellion and Perez's order of arrest "are veiled instruments to suppress the constitutional rights to freedom of assembly and freedom of expression."

Tolentino said "it was not necessary for (the President) to declare a 'state of rebellion' in order to call on the AFP and the PNP to address the unruly mob (that attacked Malacañang)."

Besides, a state of rebellion is not recognized by the Constitution, according to the LDP lawyer.

"That the protesters did not engage in an 'armed uprising'—an essential element of rebellion—is quite evident. It is unreasonable to believe that persons carrying sticks and stones can hope to successfully fight fully armed soldiers and policemen and overthrow the Macapagal administration," Tolentino said.

Self defense

"It is more reasonable to believe that the sticks and stones were picked up by the people, in self-defense, after being confronted by battalions of military men in full battle gear," she said.

Taking Tolentino's line, Senate President Pro Tempore Blas F. Ople said that Ms Macapagal had no "constitutional basis" to declare a state of rebellion in Metro Manila

But administration Sen. Renato Cayetano maintained that the President merely availed herself of one of the three options available to her under the 1987 Constitution.

The two senators clashed over the legality of the declaration of the state of rebellion even as Ople asked the Senate to conduct an investigation of the violent riots at Malacañang.

Ople added that "under the Constitution, only Congress may proclaim a "state of emergency."

Legal engineering

"In order to avoid or circumvent the constitutional provisions, the lawyers of President Macapagal-Arroyo engaged in a desperate form of legal engineering," he said.

But Cayetano countered that the President "does not even have to issue a statement that a state of rebellion exists."

He said Article 7, Section 18 of the Constitution "is very clear that, if in the judgment of the President as commander in chief, there is lawlessness, invasion or rebellion, she has three options and the first is to call on the military to quell and suppress the rebellion."

According to Cayetano, the other two options are to suspend the writ of habeas corpus and to declare martial law as approved by Congress.

"The President merely availed herself of the first option that requires no congressional approval or submission to Congress because it is merely a call to the military to aid the Philippine National Police," he said.

Defeat opposition candidates

Tolentino surmised that a state of rebellion was declared to pull down the chances of opposition candidates in the May 14 elections.

"Many of those arrested or are in the Order of Arrest are senatorial candidates, leaders, organizers, members and supporters of the (Puwersa ng Masa) and/or the LDP," Tolentino said.

The government has already tagged reelectionist Sen. Gregorio Honasan and senatorial candidate Panfilo Lacson, both of the Puwersa ng Masa (PnM), "fugitives from justice" for evading orders for their arrest.

The two were also named conspirators in the plot to unseat Ms Macapagal.

"Under this environment, the PnM and the LDP simply cannot effectively campaign. On the other hand, the (administration's People Power Coalition) candidates are freely romping all over the country," she added.

Overreaction

Tolentino noted that many believed that the Macapagal administration 'over reacted' to what was a simple case of a rowdy, tumultuous and overeager crowd.

"Maybe this is true. But we believe that the declaration and the order of arrest (were) not a simple case of overreaction but a sinister, calculated and deliberate move to silence the opposition and suppress constitutional rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly," she said.

She preferred to call the riots at the Palace on May 1 "lawless violence."

Tolentino insisted that only court judges, upon determination of probable cause, could issue warrants of arrest.

"In an undeviating line of cases, it has been held that executive offices, including the President, have no power to issue warrants of arrest in aid merely of their investigatory power. The secretary of justice has no power or authority to issue a warrant of arrest," Tolentino said.

Under the Revised Rules on Criminal Procedure, a peace officer or a person may execute a warrantless arrest when someone "is actually committing or is attempting to commit" an offense or when an offense has just been committed and the arresting person "has personal knowledge of the facts and circumstances" of a crime, according to the LDP lawyer.

"In the case of Enrile, he was not arrested in the act of committing any crime. In fact, he was arrested in his house," Tolentino said.

She added that the arrests of Enrile and Maceda were not made on the basis of any personal knowledge by the arresting officer but on the basis of an order of arrest signed by Perez.

Tolentino expressed fear that the administration would order more arrests.

She noted that Ms Macapagal and Perez "have publicly declared that all assemblies of five or more of Estrada's supporters will be dispersed, and that a gathering of five or more persons shall be presumed to be engaged in or to form part of rebellion and will be promptly arrested."

In Malacañang, Tiglao said Ms Macapagal and the Cabinet agreed to lift the state of rebellion in Metro Manila on Sunday because the government had quelled a coup attempt.

"The military is confident that we have neutralized them. That we can handle them," Tiglao said.

He said the Macapagal government did not even "fall for the plot" of the pro-Estrada supporters to fire on the Palace attackers.

He said the President would issue a proclamation on the lifting of the state of rebellion, which will be announced Sunday night.

By then there would be no more warrantless arrests.

Tiglao said the government would just have to work under the "usual procedure" of filing an information in court to get an arrest warrant for those still at large.

But Tiglao said there were enough evidence to pin down those who allegedly plotted to overthrow Ms Macapagal that would enable the Palace to get warrants for their arrests.

He said there might be no need for a warrant if Honasan and Lacson "are caught in a place were there are arms."

Tiglao disclosed that a "special Cabinet" of 12 officials recommended the lifting of the state of rebellion following a meeting yesterday afternoon.

Militants stage rally

At the Don Chino Roces (formerly Mendiola) near Malacañang, about 1,000 members of militant labor groups Sanlakas and Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya and their party-list affiliate, the Partido ng Manggagawa, staged yesterday another rally

The groups openly defied for the third consecutive day the Western Police District's prohibition on all forms of public gatherings in Manila. The ban was imposed for the duration of the "state of rebellion."

In a manifesto, the groups called for the abrogation of the declaration of state of rebellion, which they described as "an assault on civil rights by the elitist and anti-poor Macapagal administration."

But some 500 policemen guarding the bridge and Mendiola Street all the way up to the Palace's Gate 7 allowed the three-hour peaceful protest to go on.

Lawyer JV Bautista of Sanlakas called the ban on protests as "an illegal injunction on the right to peacefully assemble as guaranteed by the Constitution."

He said the declaration of the state of rebellion was "a signal fire for a total assault against the Bill of Rights."

Renato Magtubo, PM national chair, said the daily rallies will continue until Malacañang revokes the state of rebellion. *With reports from Jerome Aning*

MAKING sure the men in uniform guarding the perimeter of Malacañang get enough religion, nuns distribute rosaries.

DENNIS SABANGAN

Palace confirms plot to kill Gloria, Estrada

(From page A1)

The alleged plot to kill Ms Macapagal and Estrada, in order to install reelectionist Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile as president, was first mentioned Thursday by Justice Secretary Hernando Perez.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez yesterday confirmed that "there was no intention of re-installing the former president."

"When the march started, the decision was to immediately get (Estrada) out of the (hospital where he was undergoing a medical checkup)," he said.

Berroya said the police could prove that opposition leaders met several times to discuss plans to overthrow the government.

"The meeting at the residence of (former President Joseph) Estrada on Polk Street in Greenhills, San Juan, on the eve of the assault of Malacañang (on May 1), finally drew the line between those fully supporting the attack and those totally opposed to it," Berroya said.

Estrada's daughter, Jackie Ejercito-Lopez, was among those who tried to pacify "hardline" Senators Enrile, Gringo Honasan, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, former PNP chief Panfilo Lacson, ex-Ambassador Ernesto Maceda and JV Ejercito, Estrada's son, he said.

The "hardliners," he said, were the "ringleaders" in the alleged conspiracy to set up a junta.

Berroya identified the "moderates" as former Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara, his predecessor, Ronaldo Zamora, and former Interior Secretary Ronnie Puno.

This is the reason Angara, Zamora and Puno are not among those to be charged with rebellion, Berroya said, although he added that they may not yet be off the hook since the investigation is still under way.

Witnesses

"We have very strong evidence against the ringleaders, enough to convict all of them," Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto, chief of the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), said.

Perez, for his part, said the PNP does not have six but two witnesses to testify on the alleged plot to assassinate the President and her predecessor.

He said these two witnesses are different from witnesses who will be asked to testify on the alleged conspiracy to overthrow the government.

A female broadcast reporter said Perez answered "yes" when asked if the witnesses include one male and one female.

Senior police officials, however, said that the six witnesses would testify on both the alleged coup attempt and the alleged assassination plot.

The witnesses have been placed under the government's Witness Protection Program, Berroya said.

Berroya said the testimony of the witnesses would be backed by the intelligence report alleging that the suspects wanted to "liquidate" Ms Macapagal and Estrada and to install Enrile as president.

Gualberto said the six witnesses were privy to the alleged plot to "overthrow the government."

Different role

He identified other alleged conspirators as Brig. Gen. Jake Malajacan and Senior Superintendents Michael Ray Aquino and Cesar Mancao II.

Asked why Malajacan, Aquino and Mancao were considered suspects when they were not identified as having attended the meetings, Gualberto said: "They had a different role. We will make it public when we're ready."

"The (alleged) ringleaders plotted to overthrow the government, directed the pro-Estrada demonstrators to rise publicly, take arms and assault Malacañang in order to deprive Ms Macapagal of any of her powers," Gualberto told the INQUIRER.

"We will continue investigating who were actively involved in the planning of the ouster, and in the process, find out who financed the plot and its implementation," Berroya said.

"We are not clearing anybody just yet. The case isn't closed," he said, pointing out that there are "John Does" and "Jane Does" in the rebellion case filed against Enrile

These suspects would be charged with "rebellion," a violation of Art. 134 of the Revised Penal Code, as amended by Republic Act 6968, Gualberto said.

'More arrests soon'

Golez said more arrests were likely soon.

Enrile, the first of the principal suspects to be arrested, was also the first to be charged with rebellion in court.

Despite Perez's revelation, Berroya said there was no need to amend Enrile's charge sheet. His rebellion case, filed in a Quezon City Regional Trial Court, charges him with conspiring to overthrow the government to "reinstall former President Estrada."

"The charge sheet need not be amended or changed now. During the trial and testimony of the witnesses, evidence will be presented and the role that Enrile and the other ringleaders played will be known and everything that they did will still bolster the rebellion case," Berroya said.

The government is weighing whether to arrest JV Ejercito and another of Estrada's sons, Air Force reserve pilot Jude Estrada.

Air Force probe

A senior Air Force official has been ordered investigated in connection with the reported attempt of five airmen to take over the Air Transportation Office (ATO) control tower at the Clark International Airport on Monday.

Maj. Gen. Nilo Jatico, commander of the Air Logistics and Support Command based in Clark, and the five airmen, led by Lt. Rene Sindak, are facing investigation, Lt. Lito Munar of the Air Force said yesterday.

Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor, Air Force commanding general, formed a team to investigate the incident after ATO Asst. Secretary Adelberto Yap called his attention to protest what he called an "unauthorized takeover," according to Munar.

Jatico, however, defended the five servicemen's action, saying that they did not take over the ATO control tower but "secured" it amid reports that Estrada allies would launch a coup against the government.

"The tower is also a strategic and vital installation that can be used and captured by the enemy," he told a press briefing at the Villamor Air Base.

"There was no power grab behind the Clark incident. The President knows this," Jatico added.

The alleged takeover lasted from 12:50 a.m. to 5 a.m. on April 30, the same time that Estrada supporters were planning to storm Malacañang to force President Macapagal to step down. Their plan fizzled out.

In the wake of the bad publicity generated by the incident, Jatico reported to AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva on Thursday to explain his side.

Jatico also said that the Air Force men did not act on their own to secure the ATO tower.

He said Renato Diaz, presidential assistant for Northern Luzon, and Col. Tito Ticman, security chief of the Clark International Airport, requested the Air Force to secure the ATO tower as early as Sunday night.

"At that time, we were on red alert and there was much disinformation going on about a coup and a military junta. So they were worried," he said. *With reports from AFP, Reuters; TJ Burgonio and Cathy Yamsuan*

Gloria Labandera loves ditty

(From page A1)

grandmother had to wash clothes for their neighbors for the extra income," she said.

The President also told a gathering of officials and civil society representatives in Malacañang that as she watched the Edsa rallies on television, she knew that song, with ribald lyrics about her love life, was meant as an insult.

"I thought (the protesters) were for the poor. But why were they insulting a laundrywoman?" she asked to the applause of government officials, farmers, fishermen, indigenous peoples, youth, women, disabled, disaster victims and other representatives of cause-oriented groups.

She said that she was proud of her grandmother, adding: "*Iyan ang aking sagot sa mga (kumanta ng) Gloria Labandera. Kaya tawagin nila akong Gloria labandera, salamat sa kanila* (That's my answer to the song. So let them call me Gloria the Laundrywoman, and I'll thank them for it.)"

She said there were only two Philippine presidents who truly came from the ranks of the poor—she and her father.

Peace sign

Late Thursday, the President reached out to the impoverished mob that stormed Malacañang on Labor Day, telling detained rioters she was on their side.

She visited the gym of Manila police headquarters late yesterday and, flashing the "peace" sign, held a conversation with 57 people arrested for the street violence.

Squatting in front of a male suspect, she told him: "Let us not fight," as both flashed the "V" sign with their fingers.

"You say you heard your leaders say that the Constitution must be defended. Well, the Supreme Court has already ruled that under the Constitution I am the president. So if you are for the Constitution, we must be on the same side," she told him in Filipino.

The arrested man said Ms Macapagal's explanation was different from what he was told previously.

"Please forgive me, ma'am," he said in Filipino.

The "V" sign was what the Estrada supporters were flashing to police and military personnel during the failed attack on the Palace.

'No reason to fight'

In a short talk with the suspects, the President listened to their complaints and concerns and promised to look into their plight.

She told them that "we have no reason to fight each other."

She ordered government agencies to offer rehabilitation programs to those found positive for drug abuse, to give medical attention to the wounded, and to put minors under the care of Department of Social Welfare and Development.

But presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said it was unlikely that the government would set them free immediately, though Justice Secretary Hernando Perez is studying the possibility.

Tiglao said the President wanted to see the condition of the prisoners personally.

"Reports reaching (the Palace) indicated that these people were neglected. She wanted to find out (if they were true)," he said.

Read this, it's good news

The government is going to give small amount of food to poor families whose livelihood were disrupted by the five-day Edsa demonstrations and the attack on the Palace.

Social Works Secretary Corazon Juliano-Soliman said the move is part of the government's effort to reach out to Metro Manila's slum dwellers, many of whom are supporters of Estrada, she said.

To give the campaign a "masa" (populist) face, the government has enlisted the help of comedian Joey de Leon and action star Lito Lapid.

"We recognize the fact that the Erap supporters can freely express their feelings and disenchantment to their idols, like Joey de Leon and Lito Lapid," Soliman said.

She said the two will be going to key squatter areas, bringing food donations, and accompanied by teams of social workers, doctors and dentists.

Soliman said each squatter family would be given up to five kilos of rice, sardines and noodles.

Funds for the program will come from the regular funds of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

"The President wants to show that she cares and understands the cry for help coming from the poor who joined the attack on Malacañang," she said.

Not a one-shot deal

She said the donations would not be a "token" form of assistance, adding that the initial visits to the communities would be followed through with many others.

On subsequent visits, Cabinet secretaries will accompany the teams to work on "medium- and long-term" programs for the poor, she said.

Later, agencies tasked with livelihood promotion would also come in, she added.

"This means that this is not a one-shot deal," she stressed.

There are 12 target areas for the three-month program, including Malabon, Quezon City, Payatas, Tondo, Kalookan, Parañaque and Makati.

The program officially started on May 2.

Lapid visited the first area, Payatas, with government representatives. De Leon started work yesterday. Both are working for free.

They are not going to be appointed to any government posts, Soliman added. *With a report from AFP*

Gerry to retire if he loses to Keiji

RETIREMENT beckons if Gerry Peñalosa loses the WBC international super flyweight crown to Japanese Keiji "The Prince" Yamaguchi at the Araneta Coliseum today.

Peñalosa said a defeat would be a major setback in his bid to regain the title he lost two years ago to South Korea's In Joo Choo via a controversial decision. At the same time, it would jeopardize the mandatory title shot promised him by WBC president Jose Sulaiman against the winner of the Masamori Tokuyama-In Joo Choo championship on May 20 in Seoul.

Peñalosa is rated No. 1 by the WBC and must beat Yamaguchi to keep his career going. Peñalosa's manager, well-known lawyer and WBC founding secretary general Rudy Salud also indicated he would "quit as manager" should Peñalosa lose.

However, according to Peñalosa's trainer, elder brother and former two-time world champion Dodie Boy Penalosa, "there is no way Gerry can lose. He is in great shape, has had no weight problems and will win by knockout." Peñalosa tipped the scales at 114 ½ pounds while Yamaguchi was exactly 115 at the official weigh in at the GAB yesterday afternoon.

Yamaguchi who has refused to show his wares in public, preferring to put his talent on display in the ring, insists that "there is no way" Peñalosa can make him "kiss the canvas" and win by knockout.

Yamaguchi, a former WBA light flyweight champion known for his quickness, fights like his idol, Prince Naseem Hamed.

While the Peñalosa-Yamaguchi main event means a lot to Filipino fight fans, the two supporting bouts are expected to provide the fireworks as unbeaten knockout artist, Philippine junior lightweight champion Khumphoon Eausamphan and former WBA minimum weight champion Joma Gamboa clashes with No. 3 Thai Pigmy Muangchaiya.

Gamboa needs a big win to take one step closer to another shot at the world title while Suico hopes to keep his unbeaten record intact and moved up in the world ratings where he is listed at No. 10.

Dubbed "Winning Time: Lakas ng Pinoy" the blockbuster fight card is expected to be a major step in the efforts to bring back the glory days of boxing and to further strengthen the position of the Araneta Coliseum as the "Mecca" of Philippine sports and entertainment.

VIVA Vintage Sports will telecast today's (Saturday, May 5) title bout between reigning World Boxing Council International superflyweight champion Gerry Peñalosa and challenger Keiji "The Prince" Yamaguchi of Japan tonight at 9 p.m. on IBC-13, with a replay on Sunday at 4 p.m.

YAMAGUCHI

PEÑALOSA

NBA PLAYOFFS

Mavs oust Jazz, meet Spurs next

SALT LAKE CITY—Michael Finley scored 33 points and youth was served as the Dallas Mavericks beat the Utah Jazz 84-83 in the decisive fifth game of their first-round playoff series.

Calvin Booth got free for a layup over Donyell Marshall with 9.8 seconds remaining Thursday, giving the Mavericks an 84-83 lead, the first time Dallas went ahead since 3-2 two minutes into the game.

The Mavericks ran an isolation play for Finley, who seemed ready to work his 2.01-meter (6-foot-7) advantage over the smaller and slower John Stockton. But Finley saw Booth open underneath and flipped it inside.

The Jazz called a timeout and set up a final play. Bryon Russell inbounded to Stockton, who drove and kicked it over to Russell on the right wing. He missed a 3-pointer with 4.3 seconds to go, but Stockton corralled the rebound and passed to Karl Malone.

Unfortunately for Utah, the Mailman didn't deliver this time. He missed an open jumper from the top of the key. When the horn went off, the Mavericks flooded the floor in celebration.

It was the first time Dallas, in the playoffs for the first time since 1990, won a postseason series since the 1988 Western Conference semifinals. And it was Utah's first loss in the opening round since 1995 against Houston.

The Mavericks will open the best-of-seven second round on Saturday at San Antonio.

Dirk Nowitzki had 18 points for Dallas, the sixth team in National Basketball Association history to win a five-game series after trailing 0-2 and the first since Seattle in 1994.

The Mavericks rallied from second-half deficits of 13 and 20 points in the first two games of the series, both homecourt victories for Utah.

This time, Dallas trailed 46-31 1:01 before halftime and 71-57 after the third quarter. But the Mavericks came back again, trimming the deficit to 77-76 with a 15-2 run over a span of 4:13 in the fourth.

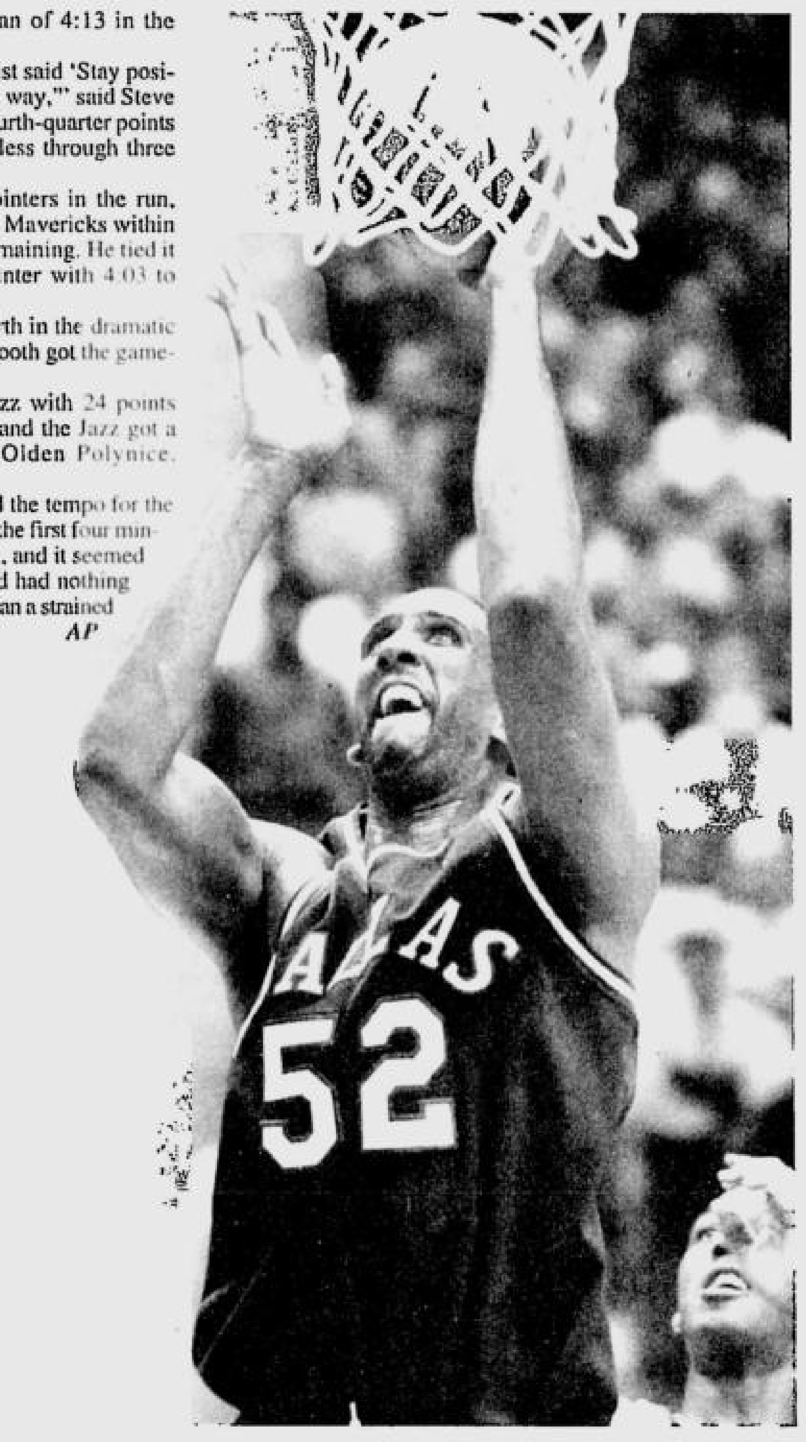
"At halftime, we just said 'Stay positive, and we did all the way,'" said Steve Nash, who had nine fourth-quarter points after being held scoreless through three periods.

Nash hit two 3-pointers in the run, the second pulling the Mavericks within one point with 6:17 remaining. He tied it at 79-79 with a 3-pointer with 4:03 to play.

It was back and forth in the dramatic final minutes before Booth got the game-winner.

Malone led the Jazz with 24 points while Russell had 15 and the Jazz got a surprising 12 from Olden Polynice. Marshall scored 11.

The Jazz controlled the tempo for the first three quarters and the first four minutes of the final period, and it seemed the veteran Utah squad had nothing to worry about, other than a strained back to Malone. *AP*


MAVERICKS center Calvin Booth scores the winning basket against the Jazz, 84-83. AP

Iverson MVP favorite

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

IT LOOKS like Allen Iverson will gain the nod of the media panel in the NBA Most Valuable Player race this season.

Should he do so, the 6-foot Philadelphia 76ers spitfire would become the smallest player ever to win MVP honors since the league instituted the award in 1955-56. Currently, the smallest NBA MVP is 6-1 Bob Cousy, the legendary Boston Celtics dribbling whiz who accomplished the feat in 1956-57.

Other than Iverson, Sacramento's Chris Webber, San Antonio's Tim Duncan and the LA Lakers' Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant should get significant votes form the 124-member panel of sportswriters and broadcasters who cover the games on a regular basis.

This season, Iverson powered the Sixers to the best record (56-26) in the Eastern Conference—the first for the franchise since its NBA title finish in 1982-83.

"The Answer" topped the majors in scoring for the second time in three years with a five-year career-high 31.1-point clip in 71 games and also ranked No. 1 in steals at 2.51 spg, making him the only NBAer other than the pre-eminent Michael Jordan to lead the NBA in both categories in the same campaign.

The first ever 30 points-or-more scoring titlist measuring 6 feet or shorter, the 25-year-old Iverson's offensive effort is the highest by someone other than His Airness since New York's Bernard King hit at a 32.9-ppg clip in 1984-85.

In addition to his point production, the ex-convict, who overcame early-teenhood difficulties to become an All-American at the University of Georgetown and later was picked No. 1 overall in the 1996 NBA draft, contributed 4.6 assists and 3.9 rebounds while playing 42.0 minutes every time out this campaign with an assortment of injuries.

Though the MVP voting is based only on regular-season performance, Iverson has been just as impressive in the ongoing playoffs, helping the 76ers advance to the second round for the second consecutive year.

In the best-of-five, first-round action, Philly took care of Indiana in four games after dropping the series opener at home as Iverson averaged 31.5 markers. The 1997 NBA Rookie of the Year awardee surpassed the 30-point barrier thrice in the series, including a career playoff-high 45 points in a 116-98 Game Two success at the First Union Center.

Cruel fate

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE BEAUTY of sports is when you are watching a game as a neutral spectator. Your heart skips a beat, I guess, once you see a team win a game in a most unexpected manner.

Afterwards, you cheer for the winner for its sheer effort of climbing out of the rut, you cry a tear for the loser for its utter failure to protect what appeared was a sizable lead.

That was the case in the Dallas-Utah game yesterday.

I applauded Dallas' victory.

I closed my eyes mourning Utah's defeat.

Utah, the team that Michael Jordan beat with a sweet pull-up jumper that gave Chicago its sixth NBA crown in 1998, had led by 17 points in the deciding Game 5 against Dallas. Seemingly, Karl Malone and John Stockton were again on their way to lifting the Utah Jazz to the NBA semifinals.

But, with the suddenness of an avalanche, the roof crashed down on the Jazz.

With about 10 minutes remaining in the game, the Dallas Mavericks mowed the Jazz down with blinding shots from both near and far. The Jazz didn't know what hit them that when the smoke of battle cleared, they saw themselves outgunned, 23-8.

Dallas won by one, 84-83, the cruelest margin a team can ever inflict to a foe.

Dallas advanced with its pride solidly intact.

And yet, many minutes ago, Utah was in complete control of the game.

Three quarters ago, Utah seemed ready to pocket its fifth straight victory in a Game 5 encounter.

A fate savaged by misfortunes.

Before Dallas snatched that one-point victory, the only time it had tasted the lead was at 3-2, with the game barely two minutes old.

What a game, indeed. It mirrored life once more. You win some, you lose some. Utah lost when it was supposed to win. Dallas won when it was supposed to lose.

The law of uncertainties was at work again. Change is the only certainty.

Fate has its way with us mortals. It makes us happy at times, sad at times. The trick is, to always have a happy disposition—even in the midst of adversity. For, by the end of the day, the bottom line really is, you can't win them all. Even the world's supposed greatest leaders, gallant winners even, know that.

Go visit the cemetery. Great men, great winners, also lie there.

Quimsing's family wants NBI to probe suicide

BY JUNE NAVARRO

THE FAMILY of suicide victim Jerome Quimsing wants the National Bureau of Investigation to enter the picture and open an investigation on the pencak silat national athlete's death.

Commissioner Weena Lim of the Philippine Sports Commission said Jerome's family asked the NBI for an investigation to ensure there was no foul play involved.

She talked with the family's patriarch, Romeo, during Quimsing's wake Thursday at the Funeraria Paz in Quezon City.

The 23-year-old Quimsing was found hanging by the neck from the fourth floor landing in the North Tower inside the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex on Monday.

Police report said Quimsing's death was triggered by a breakup with his girlfriend, who left him for another man. It added there was no foul in Quimsing's death and considered the case closed.

"Just the same, we want an investigation of the incident to put to rest all doubts that surrounds Jerome's death," Lim quoted the elder Quimsing as saying.

Lim also said the elder Quimsing noted Jerome's cheerful demeanor, leaving a cloud of suspicion surrounding his death.

"Quimsing's family wants an NBI investigation in order to have peace of mind. They are disturbed because Jerome left no trace of misgivings prior to his death," said Lim.

She added Quimsing's mother, Mercedes, personally went to the NBI to request for an investigation.

As an added leverage, Lim noted that PSC chair Carlos Tuason already talked to NBI director Reynaldo Wycoco to expedite the investigation of the case.

Mini 4WD race

TOM'S Sports International Corp., headed by actor-sportsman Jomari Yllana, will organize a "Mini 4WD Challenge" starting today at the Orosa Atrium, Robinson's Place in Padre Faura, Manila.

Mini 4WD enthusiasts are invited to participate in this six-part series also presented by Channel V and supported by Robinson's Place Manila, Bench, Joey 92.3, KC 939FM, Daewoo Electronics and Yamaha. The technical race starts at 10 a.m.

Paz posts upset

UNRANKED Ronald Paz stunned fourth seed Pio Tolentino, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, yesterday to reach the men's singles quarterfinals of the P100,000 Luis Hilado Memorial Cup at the Nota tennis court in Bacolod City.

Paz, a former NCAA MVP, advanced against fifth pick Pop Sabandon, who scored a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Jomarie Daclan top seed Adelo Abadia outclassed Juvan Divinagracia, 6-1, 6-1 in another match.

Flyover derby tonight

IT WILL be a fight-to-the finish encounter today among bigtime cockers when the JRB Flyover 5-Cock Derby rages at Mandaluyong Coliseum beginning at 6 p.m.

Hosting the event supported by Sagupaan Super Feeds and Lakpue Drug Inc. is former Ucap member Bobby Wong, who confirmed the participation of 12 to 15 cockers and breeders from Bacolod, aside from the regular Metro Manila cockers. More than 60 fights are lined up.

Meanwhile, the 11th Ucap Phoenix TR/EGT Stingers 6-Cock Derby is all set on Tuesday and Thursday, May 8 and 10. Jointly hosting the event are Mario Villamor, Tito Reyes, Esting Teopaco and Capt. Ben Rodriguez.

Lim urges NSAs to hold events at malls

BRING sports closer to the people.

PSC Commissioner Amparo "Weena" Lim urged National Sports Associations to beef up their marketing strategies in popularizing less-popular sports to the masses.

One effective strategy she suggested was to stage intersports events in malls rather than in closed-door arena.

"It's a different approach, but I believe it's one effective way of bringing sports to the people, especially the youth who loves spending their free hours at the malls," said Lim, who celebrated her first year anniversary as PSC Commissioner at the weekly SCOOP sa Kamayan West Avenue.

"While enjoying the relaxed ambience of the malls, the people could better feel the thrill of the competition and get to know more of the sport and the athletes better, and inspire the young ones, especially the out-of-school youth, to get involved in the sport," she added.

Lim, who's in charge of PSC's grassroot and sectoral sports development programs, cited the success of such approach adopted by the Philippine Badminton Association.

LIM

The number of badminton enthusiasts have grown for the past two years and Lim credited it to the staging of the Philippine Badminton Open at The Glorietta since 1999.

For the third year, the PBA will again hold the Philippine Badminton Open at the Glorietta on June 11-17 in cooperation with SM Department Stores.

"The more people interested in the sport, the easier for the NSAs to get sponsorships from private companies," Lim further said. "On my first year as PSC Commissioner, I admit that the agency really lack enough financial resources to fund 43 NSAs aside from LGU units and sectoral sports."

"One option we saw was to help these NSAs market their sports event to tap the support of the private sector," she added. "What Philippine sports needs now is a better relationship among the Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Olympic Committee and the NSAs, and more focus on the training of the athletes.

Joan gains semis

BAGUIO CITY—Joan Khayog of Bontoc, Mountain Province grabbed her share of the spotlight Thursday as she barged into the semifinals of the girls' 16 years and under division of the Juntaphil-Baguio 2001 junior tennis championships at the Baguio Tennis Club here. Khayog ousted Chiamus Villanueva, 7-5, 6-3.

Tuason lauds RP tracksters for Bangkok feat

PHILIPPINE Sports Commission chair Carlos Tuason congratulated yesterday the members of Team Philippines for their sterling performance in the first day of hostilities in the 47th Thailand Amateur Track and Field Open which opened Thursday in Bangkok.

"The PSC is proud of these athletes who trained hard and gave their bests to give honors to the country," Tuason said.

"We also commend them not only for their exploits but for improving on their personal bests," Tuason added.

Tuason noted that the Thailand Open saw the Philippines deliver a laudable performance despite strong opposition from other countries. Twenty-nine nations participating in the event had foreign coaches while Team Philippines had none.

The Philippines' John Lozada won the gold medal in 1,500-meter run while Roy Vence and Crisanto Canillo won the silver and bronze medal, respectively, in the 10,000 meters. Joebert Delicano snatched the silver in the long jump as Ernie Candelario won the bronze in the 400-meter distance run.

Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok, who flew to Bangkok late night Thursday, was also congratulated by Tuason for his wards' performance.

It's Davadilla

WARREN Davadilla, the 1998 Marlboro Tour champion, outsprinted his four breakaway partners in the last 300 meters to capture the Alaxan Pista'y Dayat Cycling Classic in Dagupan City last Tuesday. Pangasinan stalwart Arnel Querimit came in second, while Elmo Ramos of Tarlac checked in third. Davadilla received P12,000.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Full Blast 2. Early Warning 3. Cristel Jay 4. Perry's Will
Race 2—1. All Powerful 2. Dart Vader 3. Queen Storm
Race 3—1. Baby my Beloved 2. Tenacity 3. Pride of Mandaue 4. Adrenalin
Race 4—1. Adam's Call 2. Forthefirsttime 3. Strong Element 4. Roman Leader 5. Patutina
Race 5—1. Rock's Dragon 2. Nevada Dancer 3. Two Thumbs Up 4. Roman Dance
Race 6—1. Fire Mouth 2. Mighty Swift 3. Brilliant Leader 4. Merry Weather 5. Baby Maxxine
Race 7—1. Able Skiver 2. Mark's Treasure 3. Silky Sullivan
Race 8—1. Khan Kaloo 2. Sovereignty 3. Free Bee 4. Staunchs Ally 5. Foolish Heart
Race 9—1. Fast Eddie 2. Top Quest 3. Extraordinaire 4. Hole in One 5. High Fidelity
Race 10—1. Timeless Beauty 2. Perfect Gift 3. Talk To Patsy 4. Hurry King 5. Terminal Bound
Race 11—1. Bold Freddy 2. Legacy 3. Opening Prospect 4. He's Splendid 5. Padron Real
Race 12—1. Gambatte 2. Snake Dancer 3. Touch of Luck 4. Precious Time
Race 13—1. Zenie's Pride 2. Little Red 3. Beth Sie 4. Boss Lino 5. Inside Treasure

Torre to hold 'simul'

GRANDMASTER Eugene Torry will hold a simultaneous exhibition in the Milo Checkmate on May 7 at the Badminton Bldg., Rizal Memorial Sports Complex (RMSC), Vito Cruz, Manila; 2/F Center Mall, Greenhills Shopping Center (GSC) and Farmers Plaza (3/F Concourse), Araneta Center, Quezon City. The simul starts at 2:30 p.m. at GSC. Call 826-8560 for other details.

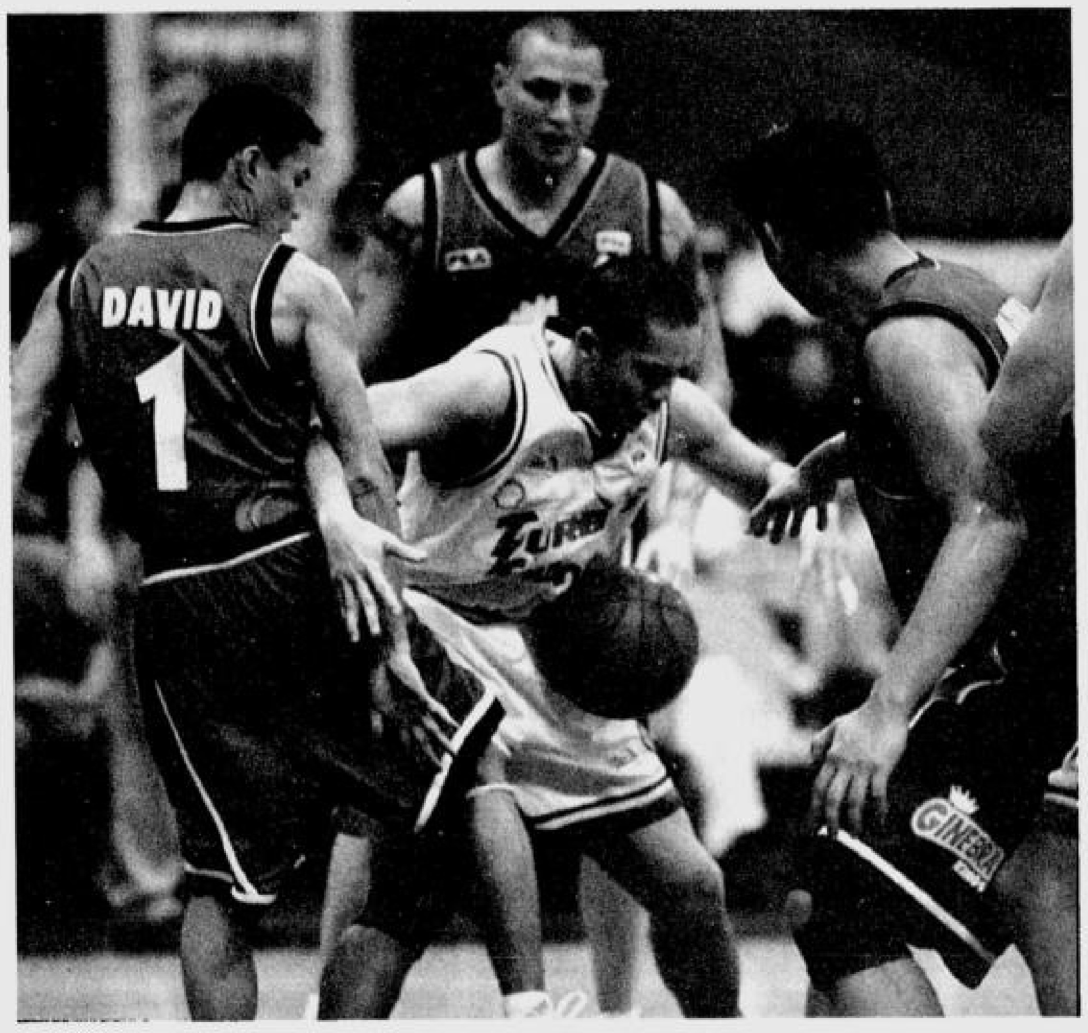
SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Eustaquio paces Asian golf

JUDSON Eustaquio was on course to win his second title in three years in the Asia-Pacific junior golf championships in Sarawak, Malaysia, with his one-over-par 73 in Class C. The 12-year-old Eustaquio padded his one-stroke to four with his 145 total.

Ginebra drubs Shell, enters finals



TRAPPED but unyielding, Shell Velocity's Gerry Esplana (in white jersey) struggles to keep his poise against Ginebra defenders Bal David, Alex Crisano and Ronald Magtulis (from left) during Wednesday's game at Philsports. Shell won, 78-67. ROMY HOMILLADA

GAMES TOMORROW (Araneta Coliseum)
- 4 p.m.—Miss PBA Mythical Five
6:30 p.m. SMB vs Ginebra

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

BARANGAY Ginebra regained the fire it momentarily lost, torching Shell with torrid shooting last night for a 75-66 win that push it to the PBA All-Filipino Cup finals at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Gin Kings again used their razzle-dazzle game – sorely missing in Games 3 and 4 – to startle the Turbochargers and set the finals encounter with sister team San Miguel Beer.

Game 1 of the best-of-seven championship series starts tomorrow also at the Big Dome.

It was the Gins' first finals appearance in four years, giving them a crack at their fifth conference title.

The win wasn't only a vindication for the franchise's humiliating loss to Shell in 1999 via a 3-0 sweep in the AFC semis.

It was also the first time Ginebra and San Miguel take on each other since San Miguel Corp. took over the Gins.

They faced each other in 1989 but Ginebra was then owned by the Palanca family.

Mark Caguioa just became the Gins' newest icon as fans chanted his name right after making a long triple that stopped the Turbochargers' fourth quarter rally, 58-47.

But it was the veterans who delivered the killer blows, particularly Jun Limpot, who just made his first finals appearance since joining the league as Sta. Lucia franchise player in 1993.

"We thought that if Shell is beating us with their veterans why don't we beat them with our veterans," said Ginebra coach Allan Caidic.

Ginebra's hands-on consultant Ron Jacobs also praised his wards: "The system worked because everybody knows it."

Jacobs, consultant to both Ginebra and SMB, promised to go to Boracay island once the finals starts to prevent him from taking sides.

Ginebra had a fast and furious first half that left Shell gasping for breath and gave the Gins a comfortable 41-28 lead going to the second half.

That despite the fact that Chris Jackson was assigned to rookie Caguioa, something the Turbochargers never did in the past four games of the series.

GINEBRA 75—Limpot 20, Caguioa 18, Magtulis 11, David 10, Meneses 7, Helterbrand 5, Crisano 4, Lago 0, Calpito 0.

SHELL 66—Paras 15, Esplana 12, Wainwright 11, Hrabak 10, Singson 8, Telan 5, Jackson 3, Dela Cruz 2, Lim 0, Marzan 0.

Quarters: 20-17, 41-28, 51-45, 75-66.

Frankie shares 3rd

FRANKIE Miñoza sprayed the back nine with five birdies for a three-under-par 68 yesterday that shot him up to a share of third place in the $900,000 Fujisankei Classic leg of the Japanese Tour at the Kawana Hotel course in Ito, Japan.

Miñoza's 139 aggregate was only three behind the 136s of joint leaders Lin Keng Chi of Taiwan and Japanese Tsuyoshi Yoneyama. Meanwhile, Gerald Rosales carded another 71 and dropped seven shots behind new leader Zhang Lian Wei of China in the Macau Open.

Jong Arcano

5K Run for clean elections tomorrow

YOUNG and elderly runners will see action in the 5K Run for clean and peaceful elections in Metro Manila tomorrow. Sponsored by Hisamitsu, makers of Salonpas pain relief patches, the event started simultaneously last Sunday in Cebu and Baguio. Trophies, medals and cash prizes await the top finishers.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA Action at 7:30 a.m. (r – 7:30 p.m.) on ESPN

NBA Playoffs – New York vs Toronto, First Round, Game #5 at 8 a.m. (r- 8 p.m.) on ESPN

Asian Basketball Show at 12:30 p.m. on Star Sports

NBA Inside Stuff at 5:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

HORSE RACING: Racehorse Digest at 7 a.m. on ESPN

TABLE TENNIS: World Table Tennis Championships 2001 - Men's Singles Quarter Finals at 10:30 a.m., Women's Singles Semifinals at 1 p.m., Men's Singles Semifinals at 3 p.m. (r- 10:30 p.m.), Men's Doubles Final/ Women's Singles Finals at 5 p.m. (r- tomorrow at 12:30 a.m.) on ESPN

SOCCER: Italian Serie A 2000/2001 tomorrow at 2:30 a.m. on ESPN

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

PBL CHAIRMAN'S CUP

GIV, Pharmaquick seek wins today

GAMES TODAY
(Makati Coliseum)
2 p.m.—Hapee vs GIV Soap
4 p.m.—PharmaQuick vs Osaka

STANDINGS	W	L
Shark	8	0
Ana Freezer	5	1
Welcoat	4	3
PharmaQuick	3	3
GIV Soap	3	3
Atendo-Pioneer	2	3
Hapee	2	4
Montaña	2	5
Osaka	0	7

BY DENNIS U. EROA

GIV BEAUTY Soap and PharmaQuick seek to fortify their bids for slots in Group A as they battle separate foes today in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Tied in fourth spot with identical 3-3, win-loss cards, GIV and PharmaQuick badly need to win over Hapee Toothpaste and Osaka Iridology, respectively, if they want to entertain hopes of joining leader Shark (8-0) and Ana Freezer (5-1) in Group A.

Only four teams will make the elite Group A of the quarterfinals with the remaining five teams sliding to Group B. The top three teams from Group A will enter the crossover semifinals. The fourth placer will meet the Group B top finisher in a knockout game for the fourth and final semis slot.

"Hapee wants badly to win this one. We must be extra cautious," said GIV coach Nat Canson.

The Hapee-GIV tussle is set at 2 p.m., followed by the 4 p.m. game between PharmaQuick and Osaka Iridology, which is still winless in eight games.

Six-foot-three Edwin Bacani, Egay Billones, Eric de la Cuesta, Marlon Legaspi and Ogie Gumatay banner GIV's attack.

The addition of Bruce Dacia and Omanzie Rodriguez boosted PharmaQuick's bid to make the semifinals after failing to hurdle the elims in its first try.

Not to be outdone, FEU standout Leo Avenido, Jay Lapinid, Jan Alfad and rookie pointguard Chico Lanete are also shining under coach Bernie Fabiosa.

Osaka, which is already out of the running for a slot in Group A, is setting a record for futility and coach Franz Pumaren badly needs to finish its elims campaign on a high note to lift the Iridologists' spirit going to the quarterfinals.

Socsargen vs Laguna in San Pablo

BY ROY LUARCA

COACH David Zamar gets the chance to gauge Socsargen's strength when the Marlins tangle with the Laguna Lakers today in a two-day provincial tour of the Metropolitan Basketball Association.

The Marlins, led by veteran Bong Alvarez and national player Egay Echavez, play the FedEx-backed Lakers at 2:30 p.m. at the Boy Aquino gym of the National School of Arts and Trade in San Pablo City.

Former Multi-Regional Basketball Inc. president and MBA chair Bert Lina, a candidate for governor of Laguna, will host the Marlins and the LBC Batangas Blades as part of "Laguna in Action" (Lina) which focuses on sports development and talent identification.

Lina's partymate and vice gubernatorial bet, Jam Mercado, co-hosts the event which will also pit the Lakers against the Blades at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow at the New San Luis Sports Complex in Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

Lina and Mercado will take a break from their political sorties in joining the "Laguna in Action," which takes pride in homegrown athletes like trackster Aiza Cometa and swimmer Liza Danila.

"I'm proud the FedEx Lakers are not cutting their links to Laguna where they started. This despite the MBA's new look as teams start sporting commercial names like FedEx," said Lina.

For his part, Zamar welcomed the opportunity to play the Lakers. "This is going to be our first official tune-up game so I'm excited to find out how this team would fare," said Zamar. "We've but a few weeks of preparations and we're still on the rebuilding process."

The Lakers, one of the teams tipped to do well when the MBA opens on June 3, will draw power from Fil-Ams Chris Clay and Jeffrey Flowers, acquisition Junel Mendiola and hotshot Biboy Simon.

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For Concrete Drilling
For Metal Drilling
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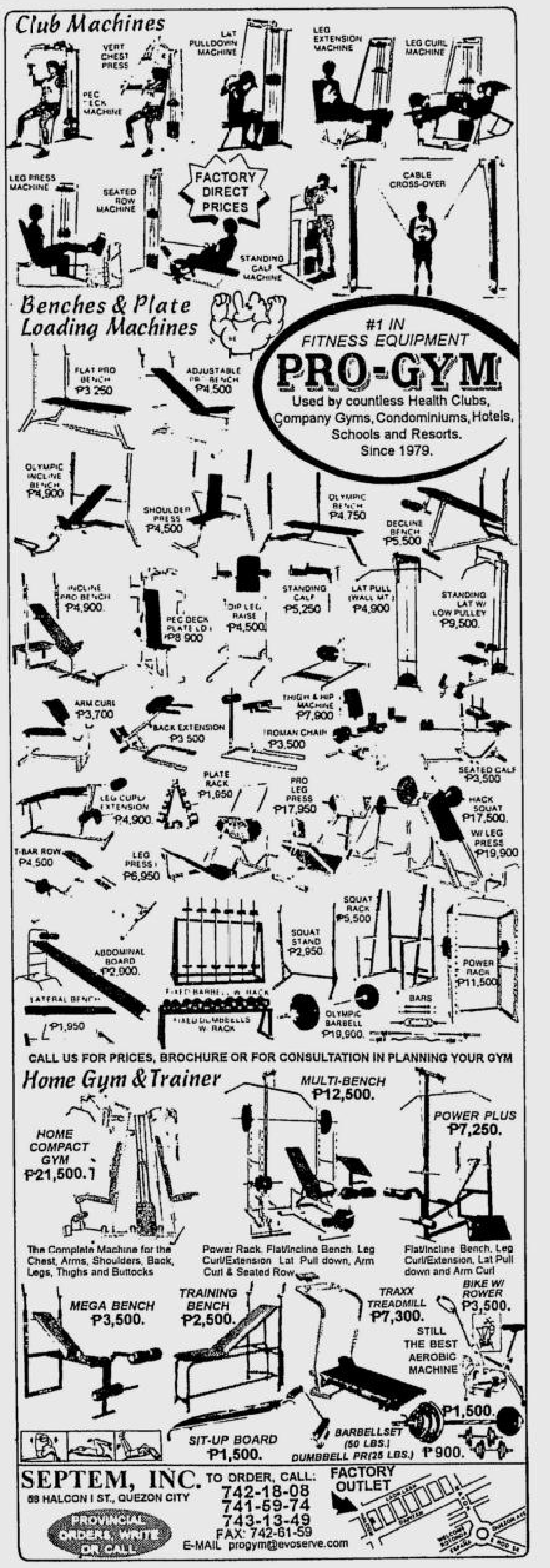

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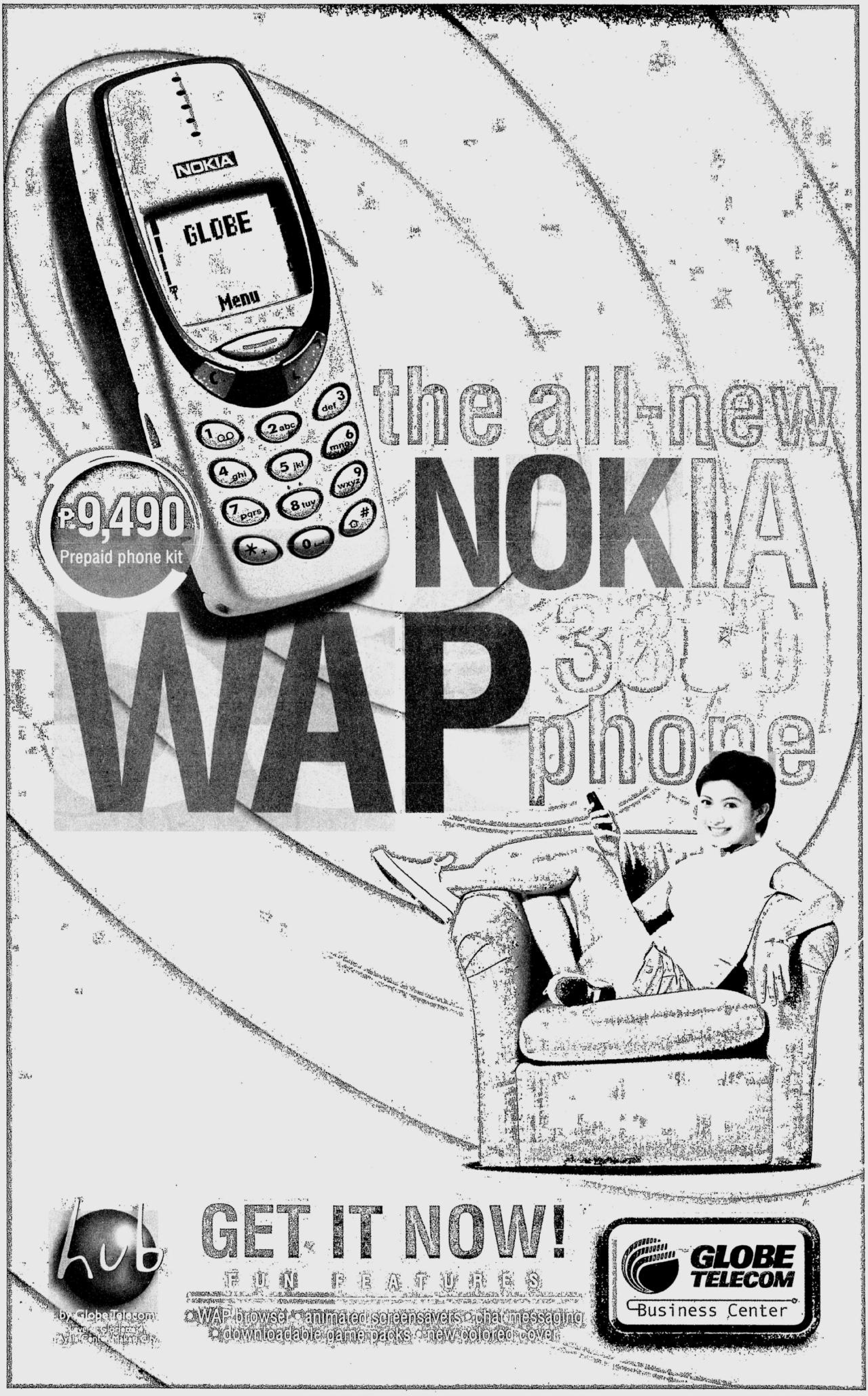

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LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

■ Cop nabbed for carnap
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NBI CLEARS ATIENZA

Binay, Malabon mayor accused of backing mob

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA, JEROME ANING, MICHAEL LIM UBAC, NELSON F. FLORES, PAUL ERNEST LAZARO

MAKATI mayoral candidate Jejomar Binay and Malabon Mayor Amado Vicencio yesterday came under fire for allegedly providing manpower and logistical support to the mob that stormed Malacañang on May 1.

A Makati councilor accused Binay and Malabon residents accused their mayor of recruiting pro-Estrada hooligans to join the Palace assault, even as the National Bureau of Investigation clarified that it was not investigating Manila Mayor Lito Atienza for helping the attackers.

Makati City Councilor Mark Joseph urged Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, head of the Philippine National Police intelligence arm, to investigate reports that the city administration and Binay, also former chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority, recruited Estrada supporters to assault the presidential palace.

Joseph said most of the recruits are mostly residents of Makati's depressed areas. He said a number of his constituents have expressed willingness to help in identifying those responsible for the Malacañang siege.

He alleged that the same residents said Binay and some of his men cajoled them into joining the pro-Estrada demonstrators at the Edsa Shrine.

Binay spokesperson Lito Anzures said neither Mayor Elenita Binay nor her husband Jejomar had a hand in supporting the rioters on Mendiola.

"It's so easy to say that and we don't deny that Makati residents were there at the rallies, but it was clear that the people were going (to the rallies) on their own, and they were neither encouraged nor discouraged to attend the rallies," Anzures said.

He also denied reports that Binay had gone into hiding after the Mendiola rioting was stopped.

Aside from the manpower and logistical support, Joseph claimed guns and illegal drugs were distributed to those who joined the Edsa crowd. He said the drugs were provided by "Kado 25," a known drug pusher in Makati.

BINAY, MALABON/A21

Third beheaded boy identified

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

POLICE yesterday identified the last of the three young men who were found decapitated in Quezon City last month.

The third victim, Avelino Galutan, 16, was identified by his mother Evelyn through the marks on his nails and scars on his feet, said Senior Insp. Rudy Jaraza of the Central Police District Homicide Division.

Galutan, who was earlier identified by investigators as "Badjao," sold bottled mineral water in Quezon City and was accused of snatching cellular phones, Jaraza said.

Galutan and the two other victims, Kenny Azana and Rolando Popanes, were found headless near the entrance of Cresta Verde subdivision on Mindanao Avenue on April 16.

Suspect Romeo "Boy Hapon" Aguado and witness Gerry Franco told police the heads had been thrown into the Marikina River.

Popanes' head was fished out of the river on Thursday. The heads of the two other victims have yet to be recovered.

Police theorized the boys were summarily executed for snatching cellular phones in Quezon City.

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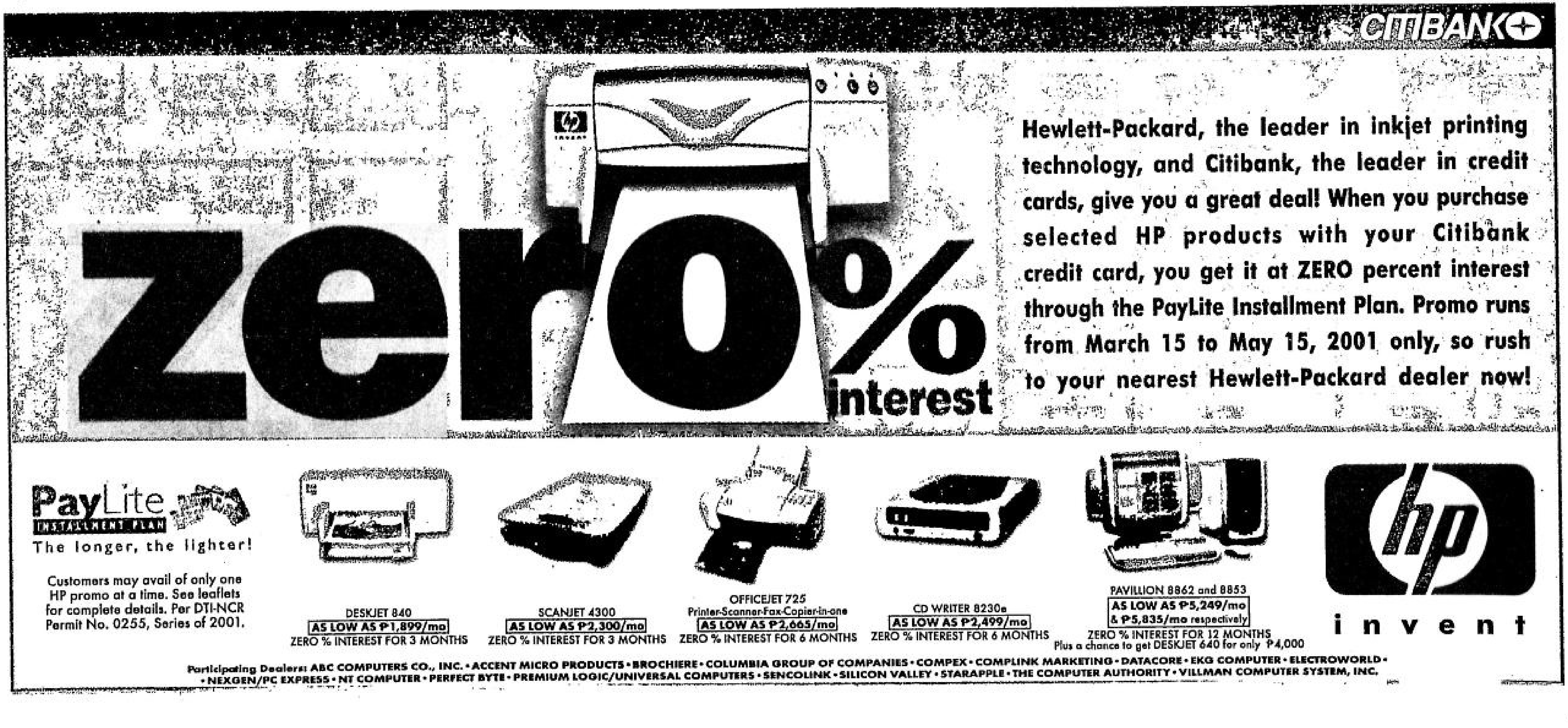

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Lacson experiencing karma

On Target

Ramon Tulfo

I NEARLY fell off my chair when I read that former PNP chief Panfilo Lacson cautioned the Macapagal administration against "transgressions of our basic constitutional rights, like illegal arrests, arbitrary detention, illegal searches and planting (of) evidence."

He reminds me of a colleague many years ago who was banned from the premises of the National Press Club for creating trouble in the newsmen's hangout. The NPC was then a picture of decency and decorum.

When somebody ribbed this newsman why he was no longer going to the NPC bar and restaurant after he was banned there, the newsman replied, "*Ayaw ko doon dahil magulo*(I don't like it there because it's a rowdy place)."

E siya 'yung magulo!

* * *

When he was still with the dreaded Metrocom Intelligence and Security Group, then 1st Lt. Panfilo Lacson allegedly did not respect the constitutional rights of persons his unit had in custody.

Even when he was already a general, Lacson appeared not to have changed his treatment of crime suspects.

If you believe in karma or poetic justice, Lacson is now experiencing it. What goes around comes around.

* * *

If Marikina Mayor Bayani Fernando has a legal officer at the City Hall, the guy is either incompetent or not doing his job.

It's the duty of the legal officer to advise the mayor when he exceeds his authority. Fernando, who's an engineer by profession, doesn't know the law. He thinks he and his subordinates are above it.

* * *

I found this out last Thursday when I accompanied a 66-year-old woman whose house was raided by Fernando's men from the city pound.

The woman, Gloria Galon, complained that Noel Perez, city pound chief, barged into her house and seized her dog. Galon said, Perez kicked her door. The door flung open and hit her in the face. She suffered a blackeye.

Told that Perez violated Galon's dwelling, Fernando said that his men have the authority to barge into homes so long as they're implementing a city ordinance. A local ordinance bans the raising of dogs in resettlement areas in the city.

Somebody should have told the mayor that what his subordinate did was unconstitutional. No ordinance or law can ever, ever supersede the Constitution's Bill of Rights. *Magbasa ka naman ng batas, Meyor* (Read the law, Mayor).

* * *

The Commission on Human Rights under its chair, former Regional Trial Court Judge Aurora Recina, reminds the Macapagal administration to respect the rights of citizens during the "state of rebellion."

The CHR reminder came in the form of an advisory. Aside from Recina, the other signatories to the advisory were Commissioners Nasser A. Marohomsalic, Vicente P. Sibulo, Mercedes Contreras Danenberg and Jorge R. Coquia.

This means that the citizenry can rest assured that the government will safeguard their rights during the state of emergency. The CHR will see to that.

* * *

The mayoral fight in Manila is not a close one as supporters of former interior secretary Alfredo Lim claimed.

Lim and Rep. Amado Bagatsing are vying for second place in the contest for the No. 1 post in the country's premier city. Surveys reportedly show that incumbent Mayor Lito Atienza is far ahead of the pack.

Atienza is running on the platform of performance. He has rehabilitated Plaza Miranda, the Lacson underpass, Plaza Moriones in Tondo and other public parks in the city. He has transformed the Manila City Hall into a proud building with clean toilets and functioning elevators. The City Hall tower clocks are now synchronized.

Lim as mayor never attended to those "little" details, preferring to do deeds that thrust him into national prominence. In the process, Lim neglected the needs of the city.

Blaze injures 2 in Valenzuela

A THREE-HOUR-LONG fire injured two people and damaged about P20 million worth of property in Karuhatan, Valenzuela yesterday afternoon.

Injured were Alvin Zacarias, 24, of A. Pablo Street, Karuhatan, and Rosalina Silvestre, 60, of De Castro Street, Malinta, fire investigator FO1 Nelson Baguinon said.

Zacarias sustained a minor cut on the right shoulder. The wound was immediately treated by fire medical personnel at the scene.

Silvestre was sideswiped by a still unidentified volunteer fire truck. She was brought to the Karuhatan General Hospital for treatment.

The fire reportedly began in a stock room of Ohan Furniture and Upholstery Shop at 76 A. Pablo St., owned by a Peterson Chua.

The exact cause of the fire is still under investigation.

The adjoining RRD Trading and Justice Electrical Corp., a bakery and one unoccupied apartment building were also burned down.

A house owned by a Mrs. Cloty Cruz was damaged. ***Paul Ernest Lazaro***

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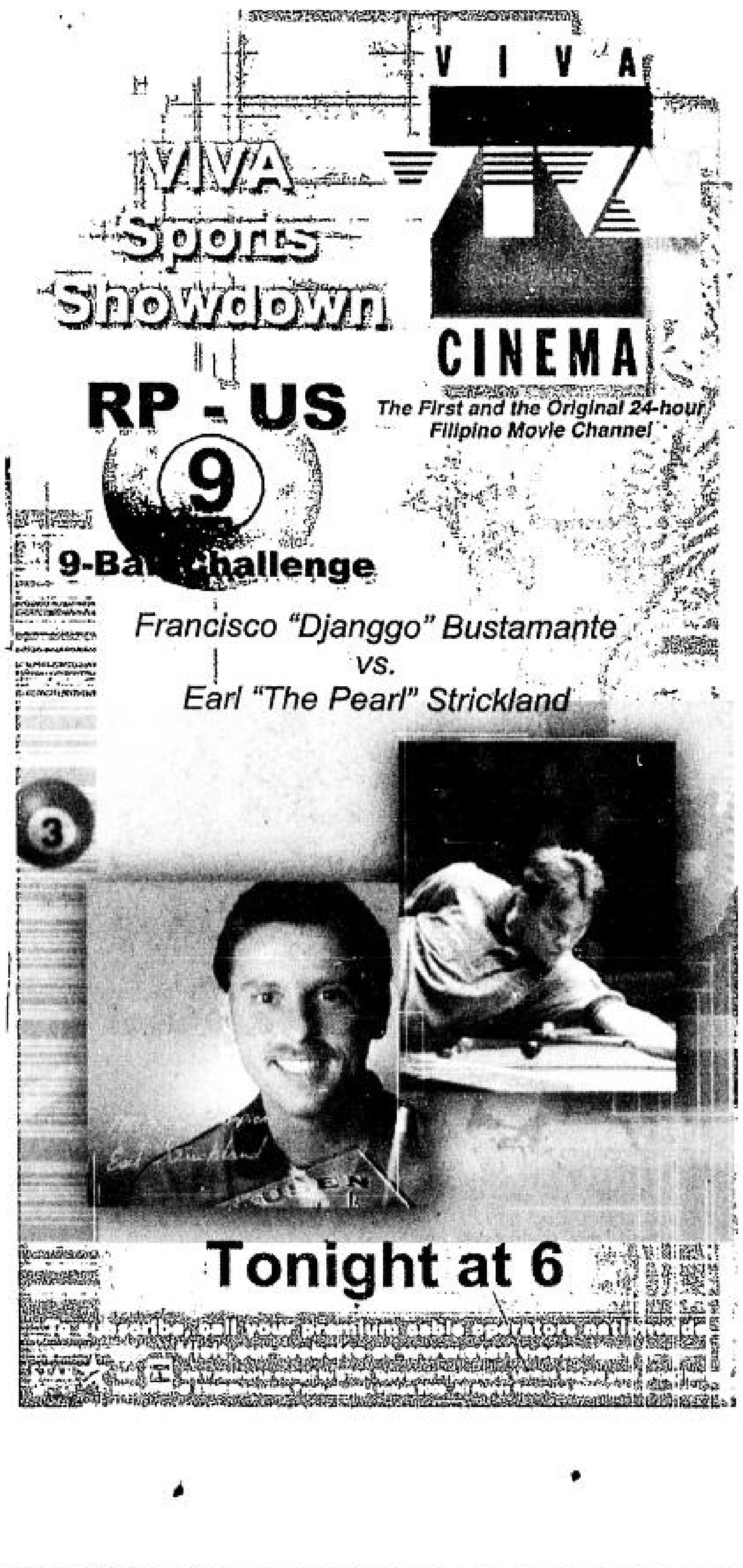
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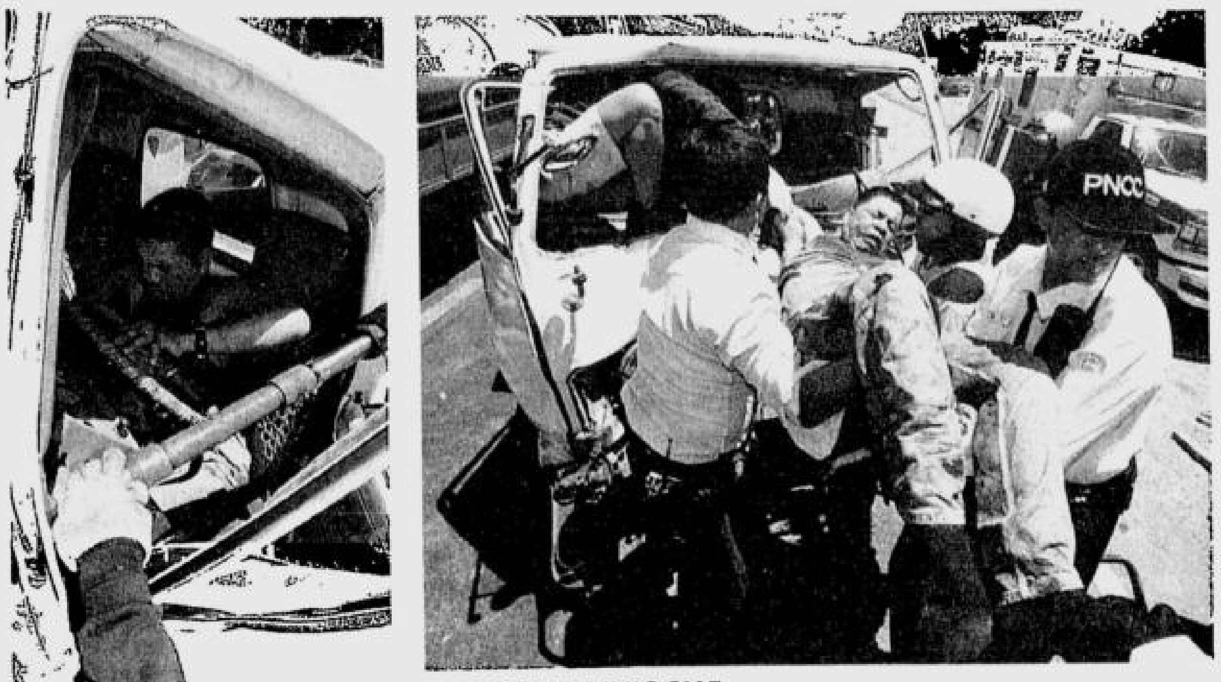

HIGHWAY RESCUE
The unidentified driver of a van frees himself from the wreckage of his vehicle following a collision on the South Luzon Expressway near Susana Heights. Expressway patrolmen later brought him to the hospital.
ERIK ARAZAS

Cop nabbed for carnap

A MANILA policeman was arrested by Makati policemen for being the alleged mastermind of a car theft syndicate in Makati.

Arrested was SPO4 Renato Bautista of the Western Police District Headquarters Security Unit, according to Chief Inspector Vicente Dizon, head of the Anti-Carnap Unit of the Makati City Police.

The arrest was made following a complaint filed by Larry de la Cruz, a resident of Dallas Street in Barangay Bangkal, Makati. De la Cruz complained that his 1977 Mitsubishi Galant (NPS-217) was stolen around 9 p.m. on April 25 while it was parked on Estrella Street in the same barangay.

Police said a series of car theft cases in Makati also involved Bautista, who is also a neighbor of De la Cruz.

Investigators said car theft suspects pointed to Bautista as their leader.

Members of the Makati Anti-Carnap Unit arrested Bautista near his house on Dallas Street.

The policeman suspect is now detained at the Makati Police. ***Alcuin Papa, Lorraine Santos, Allison Lopez***

CPD official faces graft, robbery raps

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

THE HEAD of the Investigation and Intelligence Branch of the CPD Station 9, Supt. Renato Lozada, is facing criminal and administrative charges after Ramon Jaramillo, 41, of 77 Kamias Road in Barangay Pinyahan, Quezon City accused him of demanding P6,000 in exchange for the release of his scooter with license Plate No. MC-4228.

The scooter allegedly came under Lozada's custody after Jaramillo was arrested on April 20 on suspicion that he was collecting jai alai bets on Kamuning Road, according to police records.

But Jaramillo posted bail and managed to secure a release order for his scooter signed by assistant city prosecutor Leopoldo Baraquia.

Lozada, however, allegedly refused to return the scooter unless Jaramillo would give him P6,000, which he later reduced to P4,000, police said.

Binay, Malabon . . .

(From page A19)

BINAY

ATIENZA

In Malabon, residents yesterday denounced Mayor Vicencio for allegedly bribing the poor to join the Malacañang attack where a Malabon resident was killed.

Around 1,000 residents from different squatter colonies in Malabon marched to the city hall yesterday morning to condemn Vicencio.

Amy Criss, one of the organizers of the Malabon rally, said Vicencio paid teenagers at least P50 each to join the pro-Estrada rallies at Edsa.

"Mayor Vicencio took advantage of the plight of the poor," Criss said. "For a meager sum, they used our youth and our women as cannon fodder in the riot, resulting in the death of one of our own and the wounding of many."

The protesters blamed Vicencio, a staunch supporter of jailed President Estrada, for the death of Raul Rosal, of 128-B Daangbakal Street, Acacia, Malabon. Rosal was shot at the height of the Mendiola riot and died on the way to Lourdes Hospital.

Abbi Balatbat, Vicencio's spokesperson, denied the allegations and in turn accused yesterday's protesters of having been paid P150 each.

Balatbat claimed businesswoman Flery Marcelo, Vicencio's opponent in the mayoral race, mobilized the anti-Vicencio crowd to score political points in next week's elections.

Balatbat said the family of victim Rosal had already received P3,000 in assistance from the mayor.

Helen Suazon, of Barangay Catmon, said her 13-year-old son and 20 other teeners from her community were recruited by Vicencio's men to join the Edsa rally from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. They were allegedly paid P50 each.

During the Edsa rallies, several buses fetched hundreds of teenagers from slums in Malabon and brought them to the Edsa Shrine, Criss said.

Wycoco made the clarification after Atienza's name was mentioned in newspaper reports as one of the two mayors who received money from a "financier of the rebellion" and who supported the Estrada ralliers.

Atienza was one of the metro mayors who went to the pro-Estrada rallies at the Edsa Shrine. The others were Malabon's Vicencio of Pasay City Mayor Peewee Trinidad.

Wycoco continued to withhold the identities of the two mayors who supported the pro-Estrada rallies and the supposed financier.

"But we have already gathered sufficient evidence to indict the financier," said Wycoco, who stressed that the alleged financier gave money, vehicles, food and medicines to the pro-Estrada supporters.

He revealed that the financier-an incumbent government official who is not seeking reelection and is not a businessman-gave specific instructions to the mayors to drive the mob to the Palace gates.

"But as for the mayors, well, we're still ascertaining their exact participation by evaluating the statements of the witnesses," Wycoco said.

In an interview on radio station dzBB, Atienza denied the claim of Amado Bagatsing, his rival for the Manila mayoralty, that the incumbent mayor went into hiding after hearing that the NBI was closely watching two Metro Manila mayors who helped the Estrada supporters.

"I was busy in my campaign, so I'm rarely seen here (in City Hall)," Atienza explained.

"I went there and spoke to (the demonstrators) on the fifth day (of the Edsa rallies), and my message was very clear," he explained. "I told them our pleas will be heard (by government) but we need to be calm or else our efforts will be in vain."

Pasay Councilor Romulo Cabrera asked the justice department to investigate reports that Trinidad, former Senator Freddie Webb and former police captain Ricardo Santos also provided support to the pro-Estrada crowd.

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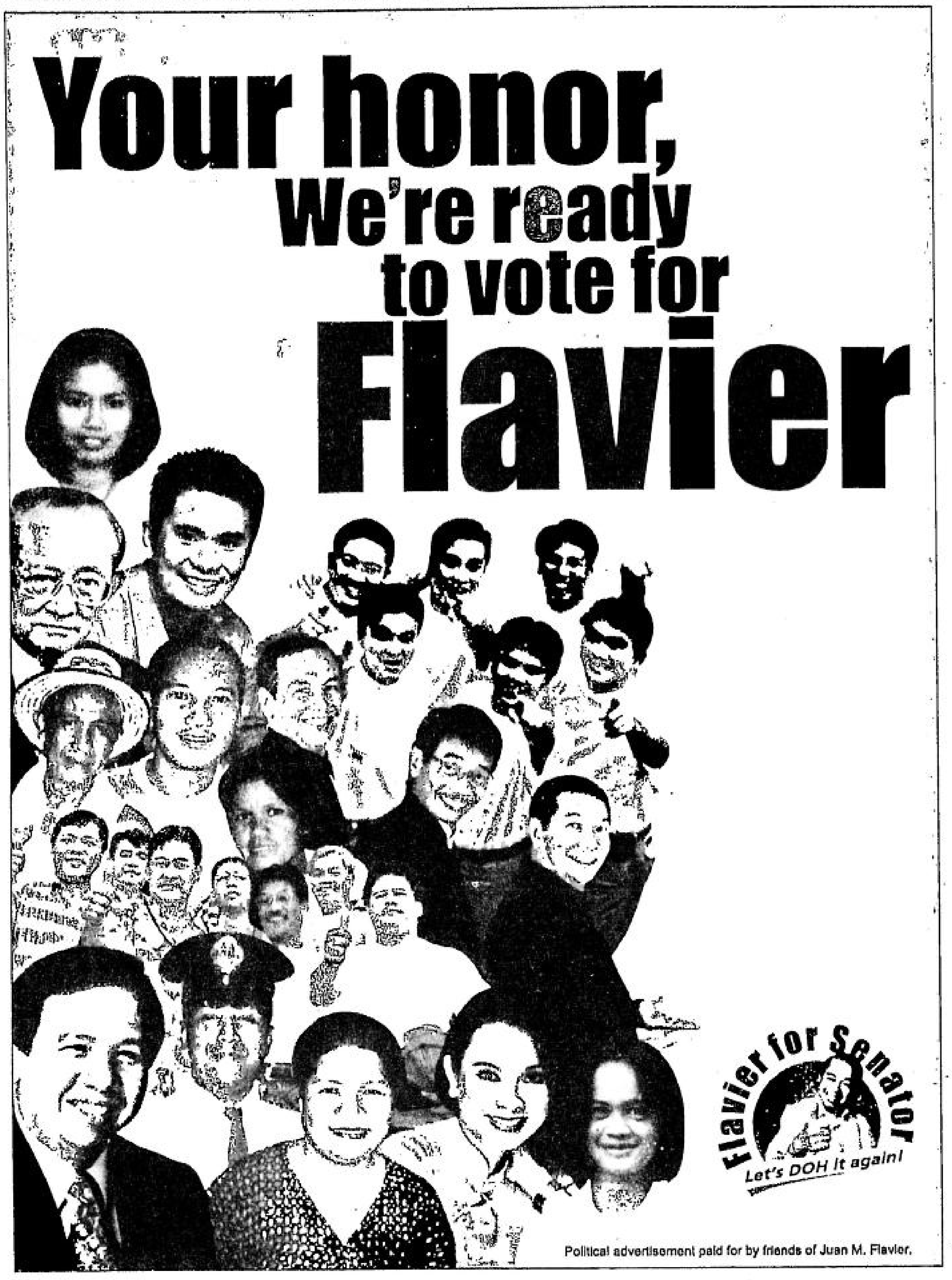

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'The people's interest . . .

(From page A26)

also home to several plush subdivisions and recreational centers and has become a premier gateway to the Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon).

Fresnedi, however, admits there is still much to do for his city and the people who voted him into office and whom he hopes would vote for him again on May 14. And if his performance in his first term were the deciding factor, Fresnedi believes that he would keep his post for another term.

"The city government of Muntinlupa was the first to have been accredited by the ISO (International Organization for Standardization) in the country," he says.

But more than this prestigious recognition from an international body, Fresnedi claims it is his eight-point program of government that would give him the people's vote. The program puts emphasis on education, health, peace and order, cleanliness and environment, social welfare, progress and development, employment and livelihood, and good governance.

Fresnedi says he has given priority to his education program because he believes in "empowering the youth through learning." He has put up the first Muntinlupa Science High School and has "elicited computer literacy from the elementary to college." He has also set up several scholarship programs for the youth.

"I will continue what I have initiated but I would also strengthen the discipline in the community," he says. He would do this by giving the people a voice in government through the creation of "special bodies like the local city development planning, the development council, and other special bodies." He believes that the government "cannot address all the concerns of the community and more things could be done in partnership with NGO's."

He also hopes to bridge the gap between the very rich and the poorest of the poor in the community "through forums with the residents of Ayala Alabang and Alabang Hills," whom he says he has always appealed to for help.

"We are lucky that there are these groups in these exclusive villages really helping out the local government," says Fresnedi, who lives in a small subdivision in Barangay Tunasan. "They adopt depressed communities and become partners of the government in addressing the problems of our communities."

He says the rich, too, have been partners in solving the city's garbage problem. Two subdivisions, he says, have volunteered to start their own eco-waste centers.

If he is reelected, he vows to put the interest of the people first.

"I am not saying that I have the best qualities for the job, but I can say that I give my best, my whole talent and my whole time as mayor. They can also be assured that I will only do the right things and never compromise my principles. I will always put the interest of the people first in everything that I do."

METRO CAMPAIGN TRAIL

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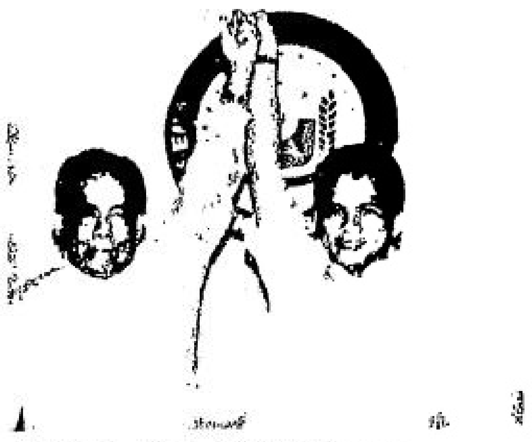
CUT-PRICE BOOKS
PARTY-LIST group AKLAT is batting for legislation to develop the textbook industry and the educational system. Members (from left) Jorge Garcia, Florinia Espiritu-Santo, Tita Abiva and Pilar Banaag vow to support the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) program to lower the prices of textbooks.



'HERO' FOR COUNCILOR
Senate President Nene Pimentel endorses the candidacy of Gerry Gamez as councilor of Manila's 4th district. Gamez is the regional winner for the National Capital Region in the recent Bayaning Pilipino, Taon ng Bagong Milenyo of ABS-CBN.

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Abalos cited for management

A MANDALUYONG City businessman and a ranking city official gave Mayor Benhur Abalos high marks for his management of the city government's finances.

Speaking before a group of local businessmen, Pasig River Foundation president Robert Rivera said the city revenues increased and its debts were reduced substantially during the first 1,000 days of Abalos in office.

"Although Abalos has been cited for his innovative leadership and exemplary record in public service, to my mind it is sound financial management that is the hallmark of his first term as city mayor," said Rivera.

City chief accountant Elmer Santos said the city's debts were reduced from P424 million in December 1998 to P335 million at the end of 2000.

Villar calls for vigilance in Las Piñas

LAS PIÑAS congressional candidate Cynthia Villar called on the Philippine National Police (PNP) to ensure that the Commission on Elections gun ban is properly implemented.

Villar also urged the people of Las Piñas to be vigilant and to report to authorities any unusual occurrences and suspicious-looking people.

She recalled that last Sunday, three policemen from Manila and Cavite were arrested by members of the Las Piñas Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) in front of the city's Casimiro Village.

Villar's supporters complained that the three men poked a gun at them while they were putting up campaign materials. A concerned citizen also told Las Piñas police that the armed men boarded a silver L-300 van (PSD-945).

When frisked by the SWAT men, the three policemen were found to be carrying firearms but had no Comelec exemption from the gun ban. The SWAT chief, Insp. Vicente Raquion, identified them as PO3 Sergio Macaraeg, 41, of the Western Police District Station 7, and his nephews, PO1 Renato Macaraeg, 30, of the Cavite Police Relations Office and Renato's elder brother PO1 Robert Macaraeg, 31, of the WPD Headquarters.

The three policemen were detained at the Las Piñas Investigation Detention Cell but were later released.

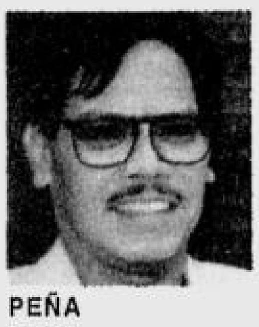
METRO CAMPAIGN TRAIL

FR. Anton C. T. Pascual, chair of the National Capital Region Union of Cooperatives, endorses the party-list group Cooperative Union of the Philippines (CUP) for the May 14 elections. Pascual noted that the promotion of cooperatives is a pro-poor program.

MELON Recto-Silverio, who is running for the congressional seat in Makati's first district, visits a young mother and her child in Barangay La Paz. Silverio has been described as the "David" in the race against two Goliaths, Armida Siguion-Reyna and Teddy Boy Locsin. "Yes, I am the David," she says, "because I don't have the obscene cash being floated around."

THE candidacy of Ayong Maliksi (second from left) for Cavite governor is endorsed by members of the Cavite Association of Media Practitioners and News Advocates (Campana), who cited his three-year term as Cavite congressman. On Labor Day, Maliksi signed a covenant with representatives of labor, tricycle and jeepney drivers and operators, the youth, fishermen, farmers, community and barangay leaders.

Peña seeks third term



PEÑA

REELECTIONIST Las Piñas Councilor Oscar Peña is seeking a third term.

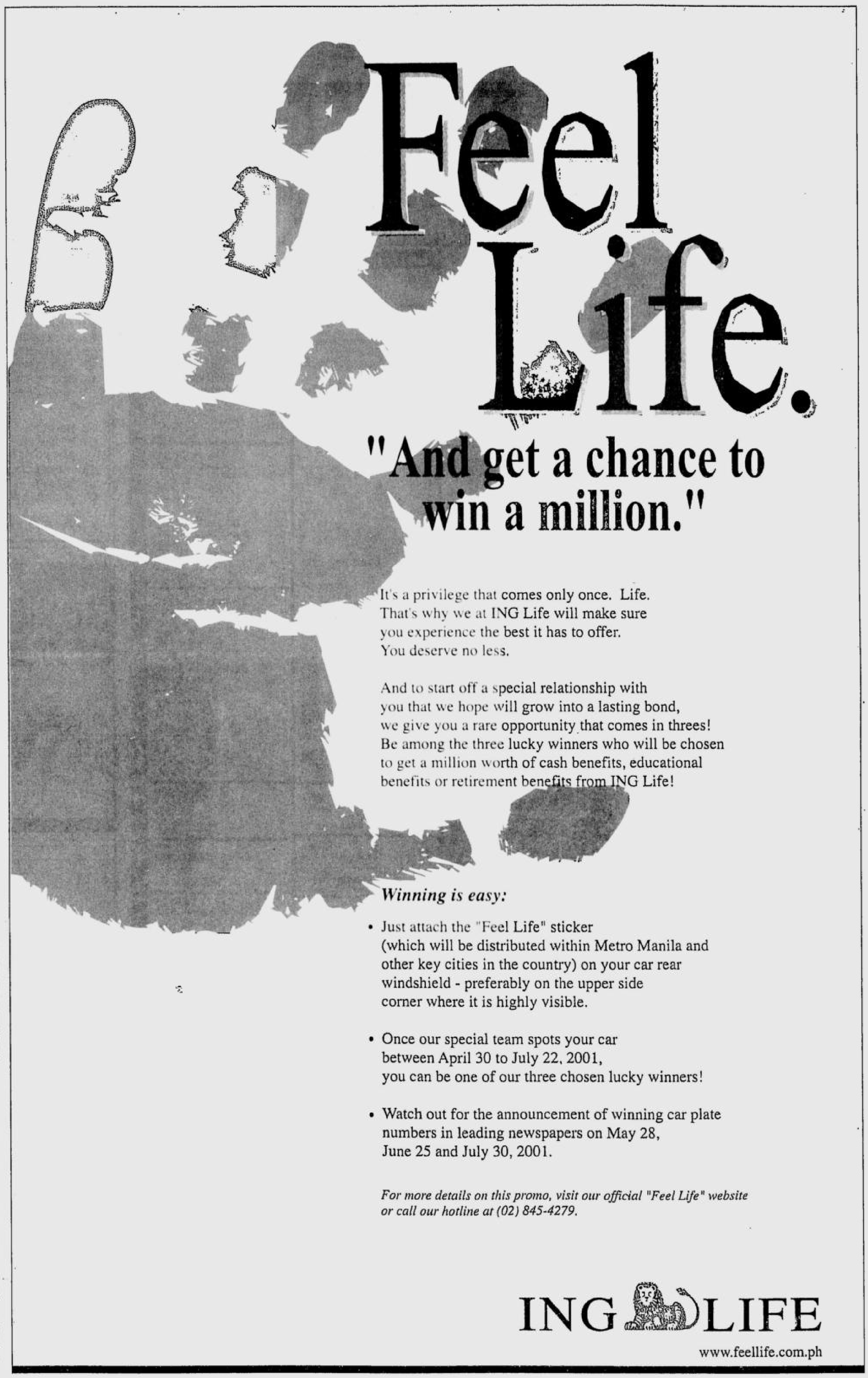
Peña created the Las Piñas anti-drug abuse council in 1996. Recently, the city received an award from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for having the best anti-drug campaign in the country.

Peña is also the principal sponsor of the ordinance setting a curfew for minors in Las Piñas from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m.

In the council, Peña has served as chair of the committees on peace, order and public safety, and transportation and communications. He is vice chair of the committees on appropriation and finance, appointments and women and family, and is a member of the committees on human rights, laws, housing and land use.

Having worked as a seaman for 15 years, he created the Overseas Filipino Seafarers Foundation which aims to help sick, injured and disabled seamen and their families.

Peña was born in the slums of Tondo, Manila. He graduated from the PMI Colleges with a degree in marine transportation. He later started a construction and real estate business and also put up a printing press in Parañaque.



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1	DOLBY SURROUND	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
2	DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	EXIT WOUNDS
4	DOLBY SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MEXICAN
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
8	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

SM CENTERPOINT 7149822 • 7161416

1	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
3	DTS	EXIT WOUNDS
4	DOLBY SURROUND	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE MEXICAN
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
7	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
8	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
9	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	DOLBY SURROUND	EXTREME WARRIORS
2	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
3	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CROW
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	SAY IT ISN'T SO
5	DOLBY SURROUND	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	EXIT WOUNDS
8	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
10	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
11	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
12	DOLBY SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE MEXICAN
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	SUGAR & SPICE
3	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
4	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	EXIT WOUNDS
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
8	DOLBY SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST
9	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
11	DOLBY SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
12	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR 8820950

1	ULTRA SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS

SM MEGAMALL 6331801 • 6329401

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	DTS	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
9	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
2	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
4	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
5	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
6	DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
7	DTS	THE MEXICAN
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	EXIT WOUNDS
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
10	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
12	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888 • 8066782

1	ULTRA SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
2	ULTRA SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	EXIT WOUNDS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
5	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
6	ULTRA SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
7	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MEXICAN
9	ULTRA SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
10	ULTRA SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
2	ULTRA SURROUND	THE GIFT
3	ULTRA SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
4	ULTRA SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
5	ULTRA SURROUND	AIR BUD 3
6	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	THE SEDUCER
2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	AIR BUD 3
4	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5	ULTRA SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
6	ULTRA SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	SECRET OF THE ANDES

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MEXICAN
3	DOLBY SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

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1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST?
2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	HALIK NG SIRENA
4	THE MEXICAN

GLORIETTA 4 All Digital Sound

1	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	SAY IT ISN'T SO In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	EXIT WOUNDS THX In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	ANATOMY (Phil. Premiere) In DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film
5	FINDING FORRESTER In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	THE MEXICAN In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	SUGAR AND SPICE In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	SAY IT ISN'T SO In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	EXIT WOUNDS In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	SUGAR AND SPICE In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	EXIT WOUNDS THX In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	SAY IT ISN'T SO In DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE MEXICAN In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	SUGAR AND SPICE In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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MOVIE GUIDE

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EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DTS)	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
2 (SDDS)	RECESS
3 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
4 GOLD (DTS)	SAY IT ISN'T SO
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
6 GOLD (SDDS)	SUGAR & SPICE
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE MEXICAN
8 [illegible]	BALIKTARAN
9 [illegible]	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10 [illegible]	HALIK NG SIRENA

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	EXTREME WARRIOR
3 (DTS)	
4	INIT NG DUGO
5	THE CROW
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
2 (DTS)	HALIK NG SERENA
3	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	BALIKTARAN
2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	HALIK NG SERENA

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	THE MEXICAN
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	EXIT WOUNDS
5	HALIK NG SERENA

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543 4001

1	BALIKTARAN
2	HALIK NG SERNA
3	RESERVE
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5	SUGAR & SPICE
6	EXIT WOUNDS
7	INIT NG DUGO
8	EXTREME WARRIOR

LOUIE'S CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010/892.3349

1	EXIT WOUNDS

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	ABAKADA...INA
2	MADERASO

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	
2	HALIK NG SIRENA
3	THE SEDUCER

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	BALIKTARAN
A	EXIT WOUNDS

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	EXIT WOUNDS
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	HALIK NG SERENA
4	BALIKTARAN

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	BALIKTARAN
5	HALIK NG SERENA
6	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7 (DTS)	THE MEXICAN
8 (SDDS)	SAY IT ISN'T SO
9 (DOLBY)	SUGAR & SPICE

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	HALIK NG SIRENA

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	BALIKTARAN
3	HALIK NG SERENA
4 (SDDS)	EXIT WOUNDS
5	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
6 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
7 (DTS)	SAY IT ISN'T SO
8	EXTREME WARRIOR
9	RECESS. SCHOOL'S OUT

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	HALIK NG SERENA
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5 (SDDS)	THE MEXICAN
6	EXTREME WARRIOR
7 (DOLBY)	BALIKTARAN
8	SUGAR & SPICE

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	NARINIG MO BA ANG LATEST
2	BALIKTARAN
3 (DTS)	HALIK NG SIRENA
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5 (SDDS)	EXIT WOUNDS

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	HALIK NG SIRENA

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	HALIK NG SIRENA

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	HALIK NG SIRENA
Lords	WAG PO WAG PO
Jennet	HALIK NG SIRENA

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	HALIK NG SERENA
2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	RESERVE
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
3	HALIK NG SIRENA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
2	HALIK NG SERENA
3	SUGAR & SPICE
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5	BALIKTARAN

New Divisoria Mall
CINEMA tel 244.4619

1	HALIK NG SERENA
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	BALIKTARAN
4	EXTREME WARRIOR
5	EXIT WOUNDS
6	INIT SA DUGO

Baclaran LRT
CINEMA tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	BALIKTARAN
2	HALIK NG SERENA
3	EXIT WOUNDS
4	
5	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	HALIK NG SERENA
2	BALIKTARAN
3 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2 (DTS)	HALIK NG SIRENA
3 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
4	BALIKTARAN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	HALIK NG SERENA
3	EXIT WOUNDS
4 (DTS)	THE MEXICAN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	HALIK NG SERENA
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
4	BALIKTARAN
5	SWEET NOVEMBER

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	BALIKTARAN
2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	HALIK NG SERENA

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	BALIKTARAN
2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	HALIK NG SERENA

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	THEY NEST
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	THE SEDUCER

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511 9736

1	EXIT WOUNDS
2	BALIKTARAN
3	HALIK NG SERENA

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	BALIKTARAN
2 (DTS)	HALIK NG SERENA

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	BALIKTARAN

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	BALIKTARAN
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	MADERASO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	ABAKADA...INA
3	SWEET NOVEMBER
4	EXIT WOUNDS

Berma
tel 879.2168

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	EXTREME WARRIOR

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

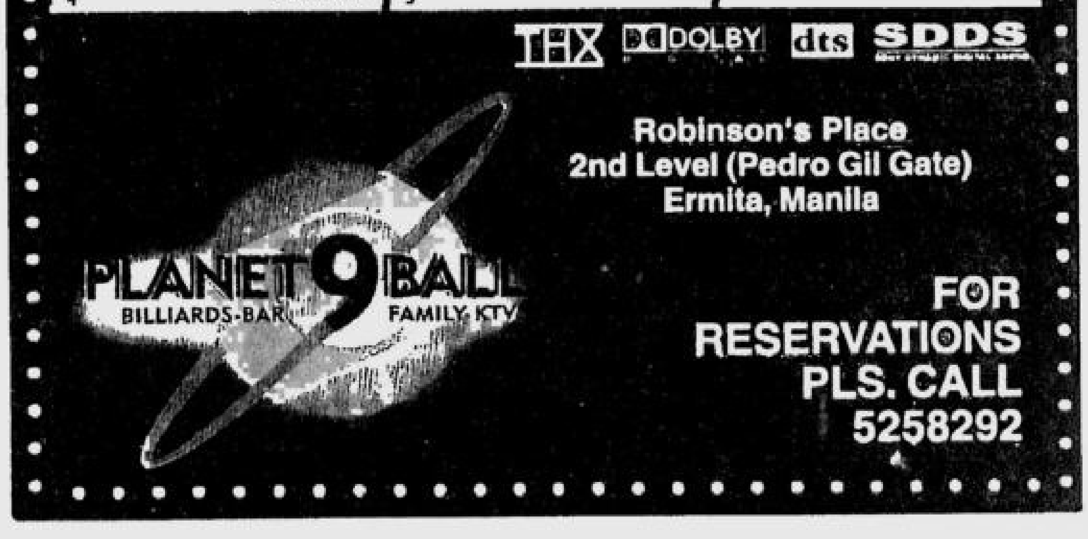
1	HALIK NG SIRENA
2	BALIKTARAN
3	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4	EXIT WOUNDS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	BALIKTARAN
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	ANTI-TRUST
4 (DTS EX)	3 000 MILES TO GRACELAND

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

THX DOLBY dts SDDS



Robinson's Place
2nd Level (Pedro Gil Gate)
Ermita, Manila

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‘Enough of talk . . .

(From page A26)

peachment thing. Still, things that are said matter to me only when people who say them matter to me, people I respect.”

Through the hue and cry that was thick with profanity, the University of the Philippines cum laude graduate in broadcasting and Ateneo de Manila University law graduate saw the impeachment proceedings with clarity. “I'm a lawyer. I would have voted no (to the opening of the second envelope containing information on Estrada's bank accounts), like my mother did. I totally agree with her decision.

“I was saddened because I assumed everybody knew of their responsibility. If you lose a motion, which is one motion, you move on. You can introduce new evidence any other way. You don't walk out.” Walking out, she adds, is “irresponsible.”

She says the impeachment, and her mother's much-maligned role in it, is not why she is now running for representative of the Malabon-Navotas congressional district.

Besides, she says, she was enjoying working in Malacañang as part of the Presidential Management Staff of then-President Estrada.

Her mother did not tell her to run, she says. “She said I hope you're running for the right reasons. Do not run because of vindication or anger.”

Why enter politics at all? “It's always been an option because of how we were brought up,” the young Oreta says. “Besides, everybody thought it was the natural thing for me to do because I'm a lawyer and I come from the family.”

“The family” includes, among others, a senator for a mother, a former senator for an uncle who became a congressman (Butz Aquino), an uncle who is a former congressman and whose wife is a former provincial governor (Peping and Tingting Cojuangco), and a former President for an aunt (Corazon Aquino) whose martyred husband (Benigno “Ninoy” Aquino Jr.) is Oreta's uncle.

Having made what may be the “biggest decision” of her young life so far, Oreta is running her campaign with the tagline “Ang Bagong Pag-asa (The New Hope).”

“Basically it means new politics,” she says. “But to me it means enough of talk. It's time to work.”

If she is elected, what kind of work does

ENOUGH/A25

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4. NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5. HALIK NG SIRENA
6. SUGAR AND SPICE
7. RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT

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3. HALIK NG SIRENA
4. SAY IT ISN'T SO
5. NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
6. RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT

BACOLOD (034)441-0453

1. THE NEST
2. DOUBLE TAKE
3. NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4. THE MEXICAN
5. THE GIFT
6. ABAKADA...INA

DOLBY dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	HALIK NG SIRENA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BALIKTARAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	EXIT WOUNDS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SAY IT ISN'T SO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	SUGAR & SPICE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	BALIKTARAN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	EXIT WOUNDS
MIRAMAR	VIRGIN WIFE/TOO MUCH FLESH
ODEON	EXIT WOUNDS
ODEON-2	BALIKTARAN
ROBEN	ALIW MATAMIS NA LASON
TANDEM-1	ALIW MATAMIS NA LASON
TANDEM-2	EVANGELINE 14
TIMES	HANNIBAL / WAY OF GUN
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	HALIK NG SIRENA
QUEZON-1	EXIT WOUNDS
REMAR	EXIT WOUNDS
REMAR-2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-2	RECESS SCHOOL'S OUT
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BALIKTARAN
CINEMA-2	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
CINEMA-3	HALIK NG SIRENA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	EXTREME WARRIORS
CINEMA-6	ABAKADA ...INA
CINEMA-7	INIT NG DUGO
CINEMA-8	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE MEXICAN
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SUGAR & SPICE
CINEMA-12	SAY IT ISN'T SO
CINEMA-14	BALIKTARAN
CINEMA-15	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	SUGAR & SPICE
CINEMA-2	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
CINEMA-3 .	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-4	SAY IT ISN'T SO
CINEMA-5	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-6	THE MEXICAN

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(R-18 RT-1:40)
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Starring:
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DMX
Isaiah Washington

May 5 - Saturday
3:40 PM - Exit Wounds
5:50 PM - Exit Wounds
8:00 PM - Exit Wounds
10:10 PM - Exit Wounds

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Hear the Difference. Feel the Excitement

‘Enough of talk; it’s time to work’

(From page A25)

she intend to do for Malabon and Navotas during her first term?

"Plant the seeds of something that will be there forever, like laws that generations after will benefit from, not just impact projects," she says and ticks off the specifics.

- Education.
- Justice, which she calls "a personal thing. I want everybody to know what their rights are."
- Flood control.

"President Estrada started it and it is being implemented. We just have to make sure it is completed. The project will displace people, families. I believe they must be relocated in the same town. We can have space for that. We can reclaim land. Majority of the population is fishermen and their families. If you displace them and relocate them in Bulacan, for instance, you kill their livelihood."

- Squatting. "The government does not have a comprehensive housing policy," she says, vowing she will help fill the deficiency.
- "I want to educate our voters on the role of people and NGOs in supporting plans and programs."

She adds: "People know that with my senator mom there and with me there, we can give twice as much to the district."

> ‘I’ve gone through it all. I’ve come full circle. You have friends. You lose your friends. After the impeachment, we had so few friends. At home the joke after the impeachment was who had the most friends. I won. My sister had one. My brother had two. I had seven.’

One criticism that has been raised against Oreta is that, strictly speaking, she is a first-timer in the political game. "I may be a first-timer but I've been there," she says referring to her being a member of the Oreta and Aquino families.

"All throughout my life I've been there. I know what I can do. I've been through enough to make me ready. Of course I know I'll face more. But I'm ready.

"I've gone through it all," she repeats. "I've come full circle. You have friends. You lose your friends. After the impeachment, we had so few friends. At home the joke after the impeachment was who had the most friends. I won. My sister had one. My brother had two. I had seven."

Friendships aside, she is convinced she can do the work of a legislator. "I went to school for that. I'm a workaholic. I think that's a plus. When I first worked in a law firm, I did litigation work. Other lawyers will tell you that it's sometimes the most time-consuming work, depending on the firm. Morning, afternoon you're in court. You start paper work at about 4:30 to 5 p.m. Going home time is midnight; 9 p.m. is early. It disciplined me."

It is also a great help, she says, that as a lawyer "I just believe the facts, I look for evidence."

What kind of a leader would she be?

"Leadership to me is change. I believe in people who stand by their beliefs till the end."

She admits, however, that the leaders who inspire her and earn her admiration are not part of the Philippines.

"I like Fidel Castro. I've met Fidel Castro. To be able to still have a socialist republic in this day and age is amazing. To make it survive for 50 years is even more amazing. But I'm not socialist-inclined, I'm a realist."

Former US President Bill Clinton also gets her vote. "I don't necessarily think he's the greatest but when I think of leadership qualities, I think of Clinton. What kind of person will go through something like (his impeachment over the Monica Lewinsky issue) and still survive?

"I'm dying to have someone to look up to and to believe in, here."

The May 14 elections will decide if Rissa Oreta Aquino herself will be a leader to inspire others. *Louie C. Camino*

Fire consumes P2 M

A FIRE broke out in a newly opened videoke bar in Pasig City and destroyed some P2-million worth of property on Thursday night.

But no one was reported injured in the fire that hit the full-packed Renz and Veh Videoke Bar, according to Pasig fire marshal Aloveel Ferrer.

Investigation showed that the fire, which lasted for 30 minutes, started about 11 p.m. at the M-Lucky convenient store at the corner of De Castro Street and Ortigas Avenue Extension and spread to the videoke bar beside it.

Ferrer said the fire could have been caused by an electrical overload because of the videoke's audio equipment.

Simplicio Ilagan, owner of the convenience store, said the fire consumed only a part of his store, which was insured.

Basketball fan shot

A TRICYCLE driver who was watching a basketball game in Las Piñas City is in critical condition after he was shot by an unidentified man early morning yesterday.

Police identified the victim as Gregorio Ativo, a resident of 130 Malunggay St., CAA Compound, Las Piñas City.

SPO1 Roberto Alipalo of the Las Piñas Police Criminal Investigation Division said the shooting happened around 1:30 a.m. while Ativo was watching a basketball game at the corner of Saging and Peras streets at CAA Compound.

Police said the unidentified gunman, who came on board a white car (TAR-432), approached Ativo and shot him at close range.

Witnesses brought Ativo to the Las Piñas Hospital, where he is in critical condition.

Police suspect that personal grudge was the motive for the shooting. *Alcuin Papa, Lorraine Santos, Allison Lopez*

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SAY IT ISN'T SO - P 13 12:10, 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50, 11:00	NARINIG MO BA ANG LATEST - P13 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 10:00	THE MEXICAN - P 13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

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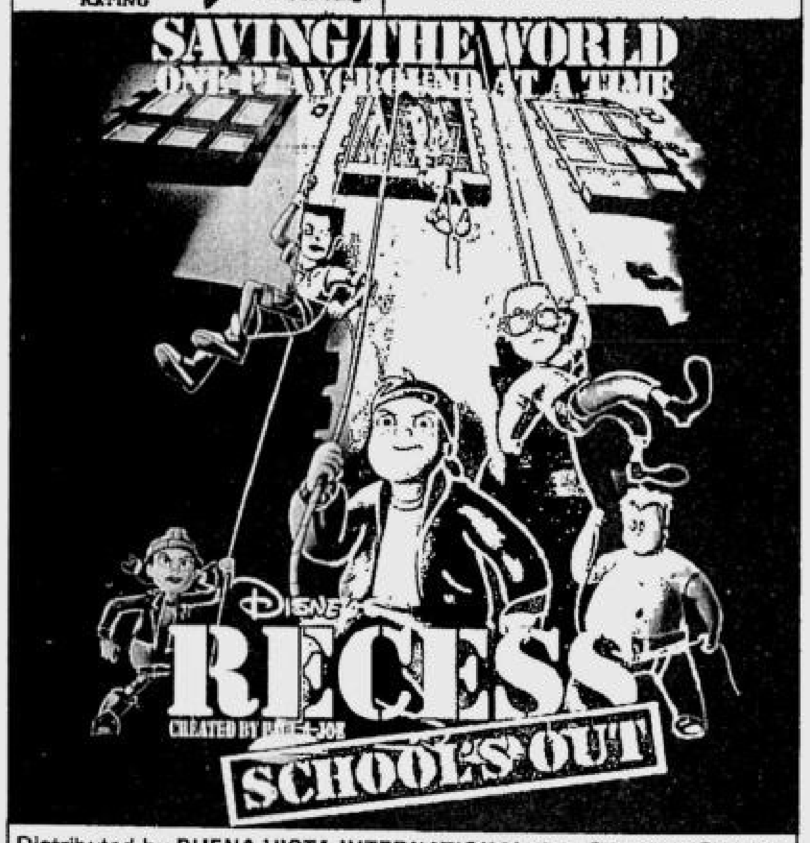

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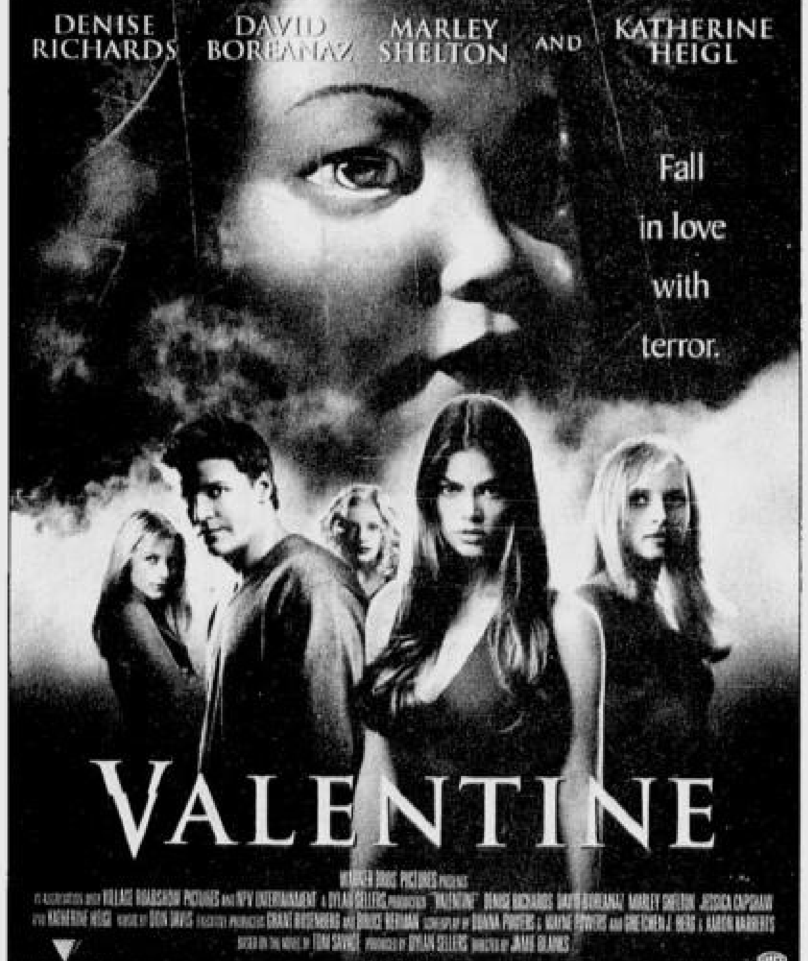

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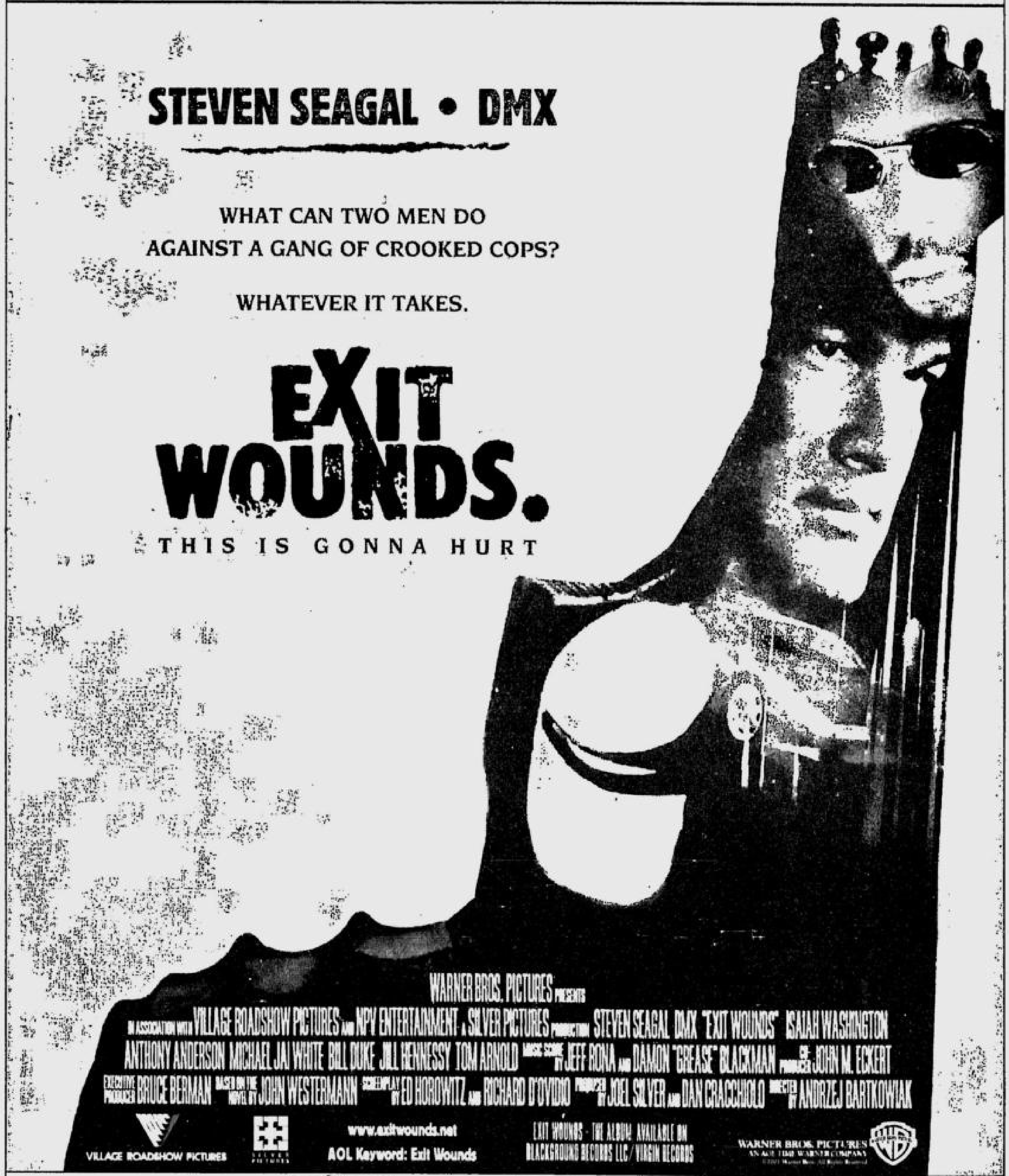

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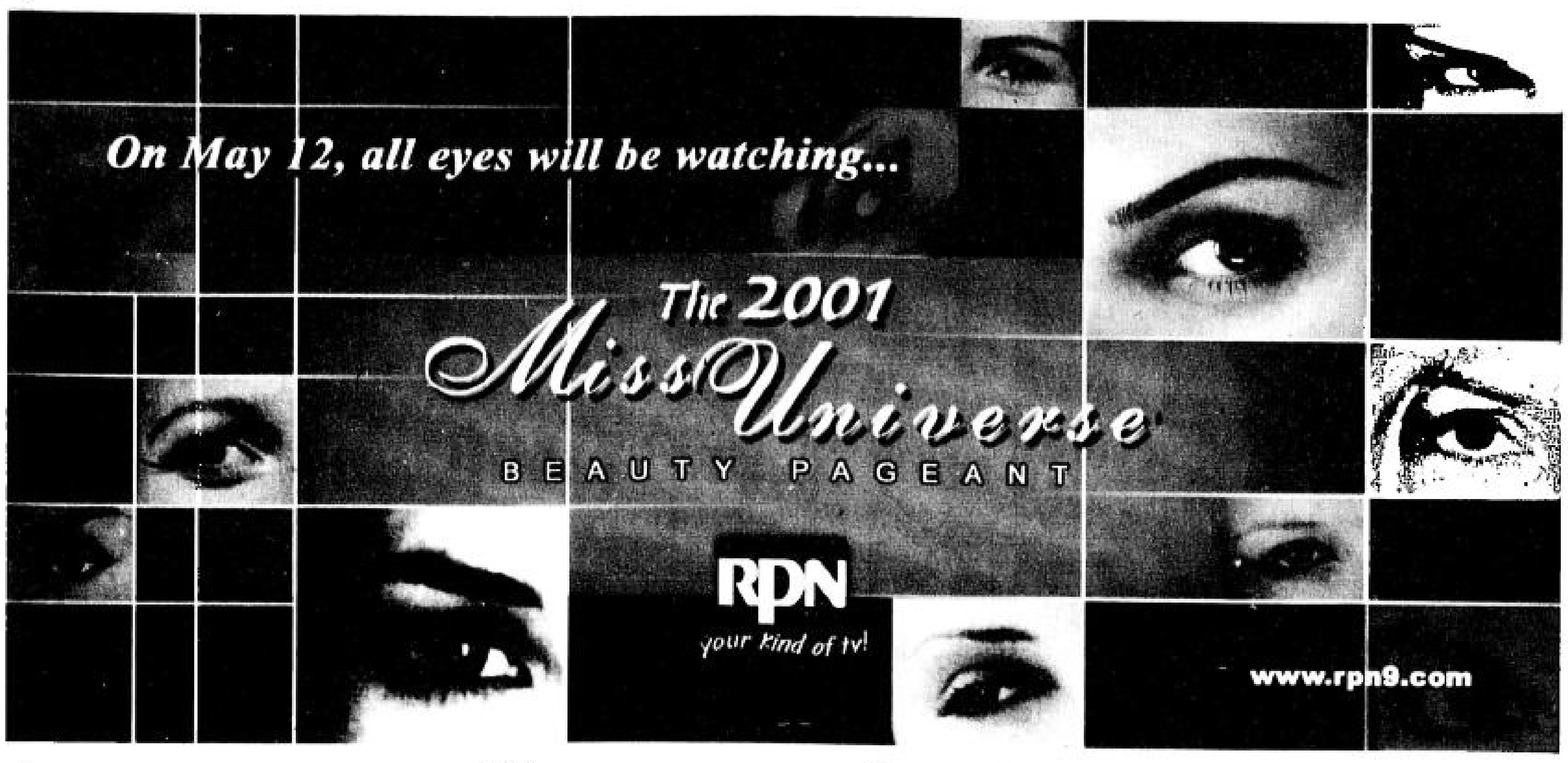

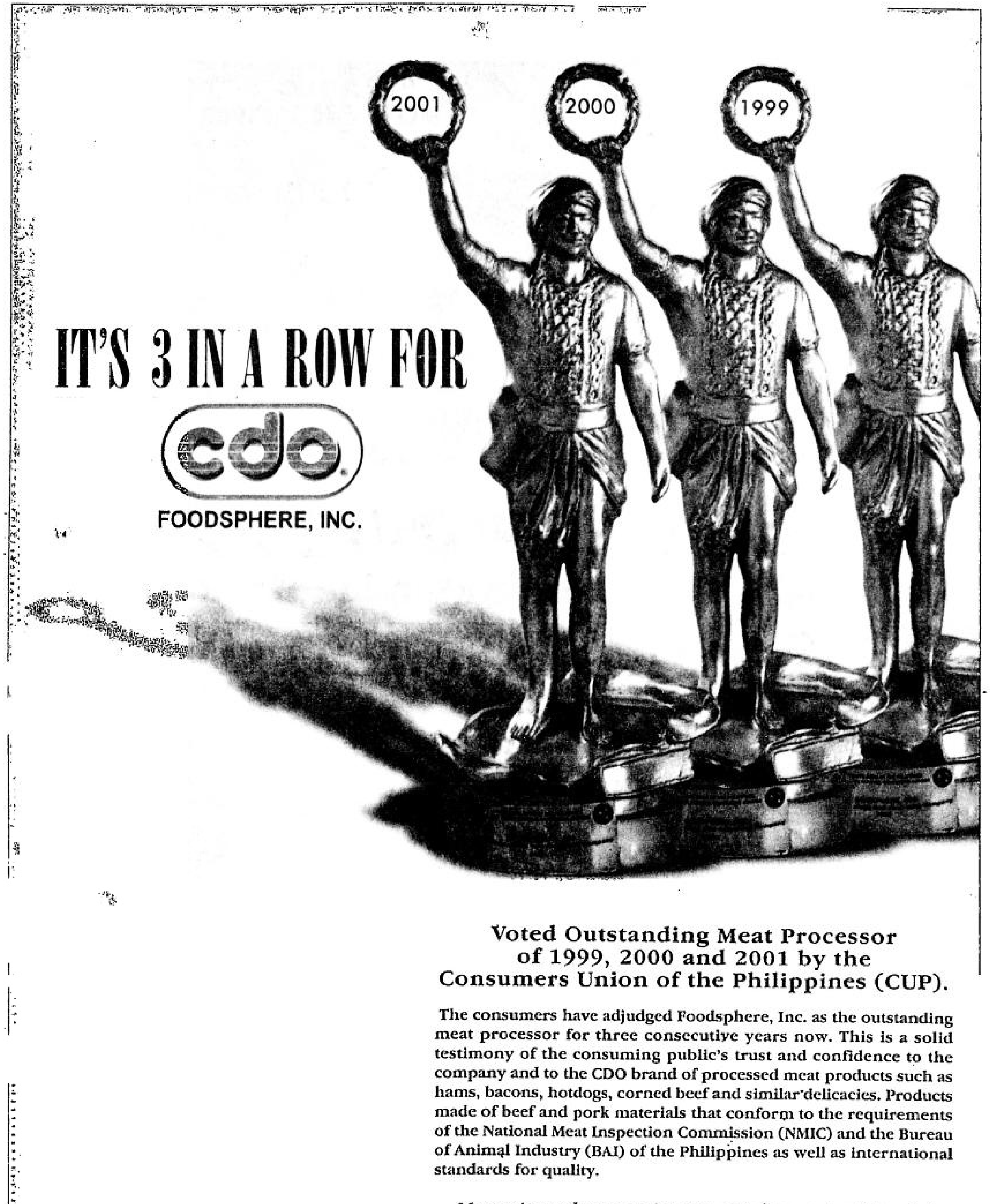

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

RISSA O. AQUINO

'Enough of talk; it's time to work'

ONE day when Aurora Rosario Aquino Oreta was about 6, she refused to go to school but would not tell her mother why. Her mother later learned from school authorities why: Little Rissa didn't want to sing the anthem of the then-ruling Marcos regime, "Ang Bagong Lipunan."

"Because it was bad to sing it," the girl later told her mother.

"That was my orientation," says Rissa Oreta, now a lawyer, whom Malabon-Navotas children like to call "Ate Rissa" because they think the "Atty." before her name stands for the Filipino word for big sister.

AQUINO

She recalls that when the four Oreta children—of whom she is the eldest—and their parents prayed at night, the children did not ask for toys but for God "to restore democracy."

"That's how I grew up," she says.

While Rissa was growing up, Marcos imprisoned her father, Marcos critic Antolin Oreta, in Camp Crame for three years. Her most vivid memory of that part of childhood was going to Crame twice a week to visit her father. "While my mom and my dad were talking from both sides of a screen in prison, I was playing with the guards."

The issues that the grown-up Martial Law baby now has to address are no longer limited to the singing of a dictator's song or a child's prayers for democracy.

She has had to bear the widespread public reaction, nay, ridicule, following the Senate jig performed by her mother, Sen. Tessie Aquino Oreta, after she and 10 of her colleagues cast their "No" vote at the end of the Estrada impeachment trial.

"She was not celebrating over the fact that the No vote won," the daughter says, explaining the senator's show. "People in the Senate were jeering at them, calling them names, '*tuta*,' '*mukhang pera,*' and she said she wanted to look happy to show them the jeering wasn't affecting her."

Voter's Voice 2001

More of the same raging reaction poured out during "People Power II." "I was saddened," the young Oreta says. "People shouting 'tuta,' '*p—ta,*' and all this happening in front of a church (Edsa Shrine), in front of even Cardinal Sin. Recently there was this brouhaha about the movie 'Live Show' and its profane language. What was being said out there, in front of a church and a cardinal no less—wasn't that profane language?

"You could not believe the text messages we got during the im-

ENOUGH/A24

JAIME FRESNEDI

'The people's interest should always be first'

BY NINI VALERA

A DECISION to cut the benefits and salaries of local government employees in Muntinlupa during the first three months of his term made Mayor Jaime R. Fresnedi the most unpopular public official in his city.

"Upon studying the financial situation of the city and seeing its declining income, I felt that was the best thing to do," says Fresnedi.

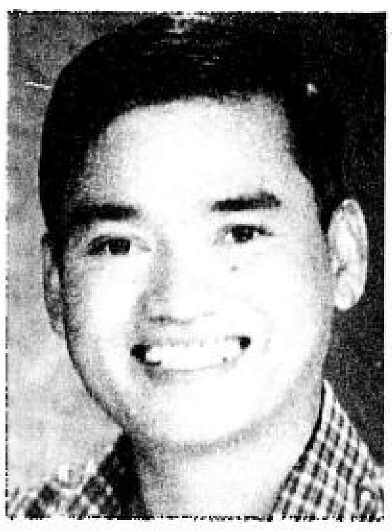
He admits that if there had been elections at that time, he would have definitely lost.

"People got mad at me," he says. "I was not able to give favors to my friends, my supporters, and even employees of city hall."

The cuts—as much as 30 percent on wages—hurt. But Fresnedi, 56, who is running for reelection, looks back at that decision with pride.

Even if the national economy seemed to be in a perpetual slump, Muntinlupa showed a rise in income by more than 40 percent last year, according to city hall records. Collection from business taxes and fees in 2000 reached P213,145,148.70, or a 51.03-percent increase over 1998 figures.

Fresnedi hopes to keep it that way.

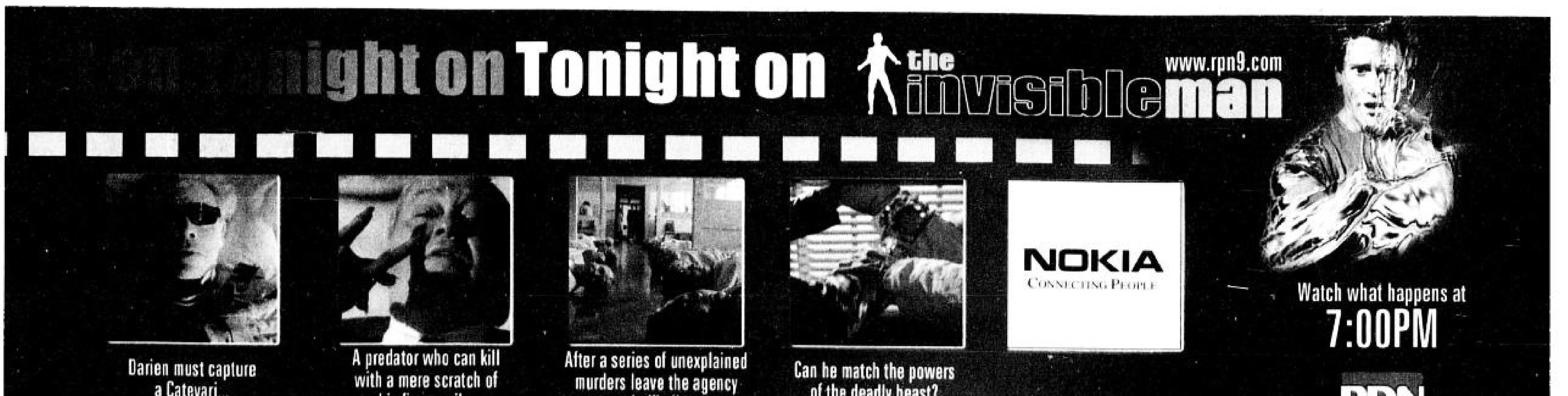

FRESNEDI

"I believe that the people of Muntinlupa have given me their trust," he says. "So I have to deliver, to be a good steward. The privilege given to me is an opportunity and I would do my best to be a good steward of the city.

"I also believe in the saying that to be a good leader, you have to be a good follower. You don't only issue orders, you have to show to the people that you are the first to follow your orders."

Today, there are more than 8,000 business establishments in Muntinlupa, which was once known only as the town where the national penitentiary could be found. It is

PEOPLE'S/A22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BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

April inflation unchanged at 6.7%

Rate may peak at 7% in May, June

By Doris C. Dumlao and Clarissa S. Batino

FOR the third straight month, the country's annual inflation rate remained unchanged at 6.7 percent in April and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said the rate would likely be between 6.7 percent and 7 percent in May and June.

Food prices, especially in the Metro Manila area, have started to rise during the month as the impact of the May 14 elections started to set in. The uptick in food prices, however, was offset by the slowdown in the cost of housing and repairs, and utilities such as electricity and water.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that the inflation index for Metro Manila rose to 8.1 percent in April from 7.7 percent in March while the index for areas outside Metro Manila slowed down to 6.2 percent in April from 6.3 percent in March.

"Inflation in May and June would likely stay at 6.7 percent. At worst, it could hit 7 percent to reflect the impact of higher interest rates and weak peso from December to January this year," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

Buenaventura believes that inflation will gradually decline in the second half of the year starting July. He also ruled out the possibility that the consumer price index would rise to 8 percent as projected by the International Monetary Fund.

With the April inflation rate falling within expectations, the BSP said it was inclined to cut its key interest rates.

Buenaventura said the bank would consider the results of the US Federal Reserve meeting on May 15 before making its decision.

"This is well within the range of expectation. We'll wait for the Fed action. But clearly our bias is the lowering of rates," Buenaventura said.

The country's overnight borrowing rate is at 9.5 percent and the overnight lending rate is at 11.75 percent.

AB Capital Securities analyst Jose Vistan said: "The May election has not affected inflation because consumer spending has been conservative due to economic and political uncertainties."

The Philippines is facing a lower growth outlook this year due to the global economic slowdown which is expected to adversely affect the country's export performance.

Vistan also said that political uncertainties, which caused the volatility of the foreign exchange rate during the period, had eased the pressure on consumer goods as far as demand was concerned.

ATR Kim Eng Securities head of research Luz Lorenzo said the stable inflation rate last month was within expectations.

"We don't expect any change in theBSP's maybe until after the May 15 Federal Open Market Committee meeting," Lorenzo said.

Lorenzo also noted that the peso depreciation seen in April would have a "lagged" effect on inflation because it would take a few more months before oil companies demand for price

APRIL/ B5

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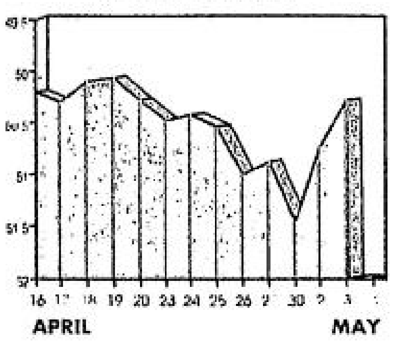

Peso-Dollar Rate

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¥121.41 = $1

The US dollar was trading at 121.41 as of 5 p.m., May 4, 2001

GOLD:$265.90/266.40

per ounce Hong Kong, May 4, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Shares up

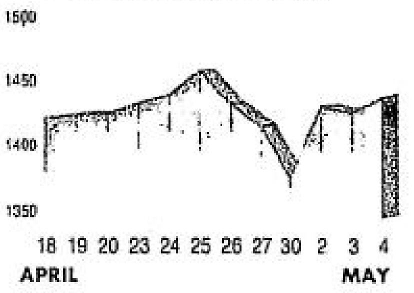
STOCKS ended slightly higher yesterday buoyed by President Macapagal-Arroyo's efforts to appease supporters of her predecessor Joseph Estrada, traders said.

However, the relatively light turnover reflected the continued wait and see stance of most investors who are expected to remain sidelined until the outcome of the May 14 local and legislative elections is known.

The main index closed up 12.07 points, or 0.84 percent at 1,442.46 on turnover of P405.62 million.

Reuters

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

LEASE OF COCONUT OIL MILLS

UCPB 'deal' with Danding questioned

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE MACAPAGAL administration is questioning the P900-million agreement entered into by United Coconut Planters Bank, as trustee of the Coconut Industry Investment Fund, to lease (with an option to purchase) several oil mills allegedly owned by businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government revealed that UCPB chair and CEO Jeronimo U. Kilayko signed a memorandum of agreement on 16 October 1999 for the lease and possible purchase of Indophil Oil Mills Inc., Southern Oil Mill Corp., PCY Oil Manufacturing Corp., Metroplex Commodities Inc. and Countryside Millers Inc.

The PCGG is questioning Kilayko's decision to release nearly P1 billion in funds to buy the private oil mills "which are not needed and whose valuation is suspect."

In a statement, UCPB's Kilayko defended the lease agreement which he claimed yielded a net income of P100 million for the CIIF oil mills. Kilayko, who came to UCPB during the Estrada administration in 1998, also denied that CIIF exercised its option to purchase the private oil mills and the transaction involved only four and not five private oil mills.

This freshly unearthed information is being used to bolster PCGG's petition with the Supreme Court to replace the five Estrada nominees on the 15-member San Miguel Corp. board to avoid the further dissipation of assets.

"It is this penchant for fraudulent schemes, shown by Cojuangco's pre-Edsa I history and confirmed to the present by this CIIF transaction, that more than ever puts public assets in danger of dissipation. One can only imagine what private respondents can do if they already have full control of UCPB," the PCGG said. After taking San Miguel, Cojuangco is moving to

UCPB/ B3

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Cojuangco willing to settle SMC ownership row with gov't

SAN Miguel Corp. chair Eduardo Cojuangco yesterday said he was willing to sit down with the government to end a bitter dispute over the control of the food and beverage company.

Cojuangco was speaking on television a day after the government failed to win another five seats on the company's board and he retained his post as chairman at the company's annual general meeting.

"I am willing to sit down and look for ways and means to resolve this in a friendly manner," Cojuangco said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, meanwhile, said the government was not seeking to oust Cojuangco but only wanted to secure the voting rights accorded by its shares in the company.

"No. We're there to vote our shares," Arroyo said when asked if there was a concerted effort to oust the San Miguel chairman.

Cojuangco retained his post Thursday after company officials rejected attempts by the government to regain control of the board of directors.

In a related development, small coconut farmers yesterday branded as "immoral" and "unjust" the reelection of Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco as chair of San Miguel Corp. and the refusal of the five Estrada nominees in SMC to give up their seats in the 15-member board.

The Multi-Sectoral Task Force on the coconut levy yesterday said the 15 directors in San Miguel, including Cojuangco, do not represent the interest of the small coconut farmers.

The small coconut farmers are also fighting for their right to represent the 95- percent sequestered stake in United Coconut Planters Bank.

"The entire process of retaining Cojuangco as chair of SMC was a plain and simple corporate manipulation," said Omi Royandoyan, a member of the task force.

The coconut farmers argued that 47 percent of San Miguel was acquired using coconut levy funds collected from the farmers from 1972 to the early '80s.

Of the 47 percent, Cojuangco claims to own 20 percent while the remaining 27 percent remained under sequestration by the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

"How come he was elected chair when the basis for his nomination was flawed and the actual ownership of the 47 percent bloc has yet to be determined," the coconut farmers asked.

The government holds two board seats at San Miguel representing shares owned by the two state pension funds. The government, through the PCGG named five nominees to the board during the meeting Thursday, but they were rejected by the company.

The PCGG has previously said that if it got the five seats to add to the two seats of the pension funds, it would claim another seat to give it a majority on the 15-member board.

Following the setback, the government said it would take the issue to court.

The five seats represent a disputed 27-percent stake in San Miguel, one of the country's biggest firms, which was seized by the PCGG in 1986 after former President Ferdinand Marcos was toppled in a popular revolt.

The government alleges that the stake, along with a 20-percent shareholding held by San Miguel chair Cojuangco, were illegally acquired using proceeds from a levy that Marcos imposed on coconut products.

Former President Joseph Estrada, a friend of Marcos and Cojuangco, later replaced the PCGG nominees with five of his own nominees, including a brother-in-law.

Estrada was toppled in a popular uprising in January but San Miguel has refused to relinquish the five board seats.

Cojuangco yesterday said he does not want to pick a fight with government, stressing that "for the good of the company, for the good of the country, I think after 15 years we had better solve the problem." *Clarissa S. Batino with a report from Reuters*

US-based firms to finance creation of Worker's Bank

TWO foreign groups, US-based Worldlink Technologies Holdings Inc. and Marathon Holding Corp., have agreed to finance the establishment of a bank that will cater primarily to Filipino workers.

These companies and their local partners—the Labor Alliance for Business and Organized Resource Inc., Oriental Port and Allied Services and Precision Movers and Allied Services Inc.—signed Wednesday the agreement to form the Labor Bank.

Worldlink Technologies Holdings Inc. officials led by its president and CEO Nabil Bader and Marathon Holding Corp. president and CEO Ronald Brooks signed the agreement for their respective companies.

Labor organization leaders had been planning to put up a bank that would benefit the workers for the last 30 years but had been unsuccessful due to various problems. The entry of foreign investors and the cooperation of the country's biggest federation of workers, however, greatly improved the chances of finally putting up a Worker's Bank in the country.

The Worker's Bank is envisioned to be the first bank to be owned by the workers, to serve the workers and to benefit the workers. It aims to give the country's multi-million workers more benefits and opportunities to improve their standard of living and realize their dreams and aspirations.

Officials of the two foreign companies arrived in the country last week at the height of the political upheaval in Metro Manila. Though anxious to see an immediate end to the political crisis, these officials expressed their faith in the Macapagal administration and remained optimistic over the economic climate in the Philippines.

Moody's downgrades ratings of 3 RP banks

HONG KONG—Moody's Investors Service downgraded the bank financial strength ratings of three Philippine banks—Metropolitan Bank & Trust, Bank of the Philippine Islands and Equitable PCI Bank.

The deposit ratings for all three banks were confirmed.

The rating agency also confirmed the ratings of two other banks—Philippine National Bank and Allied Banking Corp.

This concludes the reviews of these banks that began in November 2000, and January 2001 in the case of Equitable PCI.

The rating actions also incorporated Moody's review of the bank financial strength ratings of all rated Philippine banks in light of the recent revision to its BFSR definitions and the introduction of the (-) modifiers.

The outlooks for the ratings of these and other rated Philippine banks remain negative

The ratings downgrades of Metrobank, BPI and Equitable PCI stemmed from the pressure on these banks' financial fundamentals arising from the deteriorating operating environment.

The downgrade specifically of Metrobank followed its acquisition of smaller banks that have not added significantly to the bank's franchise but, rather, contributed to the decline in asset quality.

BPI's financial position has, the rating agency said, been weakened by its acquisition of Far East Bank & Trust in 2000 and the uncertain prospects for business synergies.

Equitable-PCI suffers from ongoing disputes among the major shareholders of the bank, which include a prominent ethnic Chinese family and the government insurance and social security funds.

Moody's notes that this has created uncertainties as to the future ownership of the bank.

The rating agency said that the bank financial strength ratings of these banks, which represent the major banks in the system, had been among the highest in the country and indeed the region itself.

This reflected the banks' strong franchises and superior competitive positions within the Philippine banking industry.

However, prospects for improvements in the banks' declining asset quality and profitability appear diminished given the country's poor economic performance and continuing high level of competition within the industry.

The Philippine economy also faces significant longer-term challenges such as its high dependence on foreign investment, which has declined significantly, to help build its weak industrial infrastructure.

Moody's confirmations of the ratings of PNB and Allied Bank reflect its belief that the current ratings adequately capture the inherent risks and challenges of these banks.

PNB has suffered from severe financial stress and has been undergoing government-led restructuring, which has included the provision of substantial amounts of liquidity.

Allied Bank remains a bank with a modest franchise and has experienced above-industry average asset quality deterioration, though its niche in lending to the middle market ethnic Chinese businesses has historically provided it with high returns.

RENEWED BOC INTEREST

UBI reopening gets big boost

By Raul C. Dancel
and Elena R. Torrijos

BUENAVENTURA

BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura recently said that Bank of Commerce's renewed interest in bailing out Urban Bank Inc. and Urbancorp Investments Inc. has greatly improved the chances that the shuttered lender and its investment house would escape liquidation and would be able to reopen by July 1.

"We welcome it. At least now we're talking with two groups rather than just one," Buenaventura told the INQUIRER. "It gives us a fallback position and a better chance of not having to liquidate Urban Bank."

Bank of Commerce said in an interview that it was still interested in rescuing Urban Bank and Urbancorp should ongoing efforts to bail the two companies out fail.

"We have not lost our interest in Urban Bank. Bank of Commerce merely stepped aside to enable the PDIC to continue with the rehabilitation of Urban Bank, given that our position was the resolution of certain cases filed which, we felt, posed a big risk to us," a senior bank official told the INQUIRER on condition of anonymity.

He said Bank of Commerce recently received an assurance that these cases would not derail talks to rehabilitate Urban Bank and Urbancorp. Specifically, he said, it became clear that these cases would not allow former Urban Bank president Teodoro Borlongan to regain control of the bank.

He said Bank of Commerce now believed that the ownership of Urban Bank and Urbancorp would not be affected even if these cases were resolved in Borlongan's favor because the rehabilitation plan involves major shareholders, creditors and depositors of Urban Bank and Urbancorp.

Bank of Commerce was the first group to offer a rescue plan for the bank. It submitted a rehabilitation proposal that most of Urban Bank's depositors, creditors and shareholders accepted. But it later withdrew the proposal, citing cases that it felt threntened to derail efforts to reopen Urban Bank.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. have filed cases of massive fraud against Borlongan and other former officers of Urban Bank for allegedly using unlawfully money deposited with Urban Bank to bail out Urbancorp.

Borlongan countered by filing an administrative complaint against Buenaventura before the Office of the Ombudsman for allegedly closing Urban Bank with undue haste.

In an interview, Borlongan told the INQUIRER that these cases had little to do with Bank of Commerce's decision to pull out of discussions to bail out Urban Bank and Urbancorp with the BSP and PDIC.

He revealed that Bank of Commerce wrote a letter to PDIC president Norberto Nazareno expressing concern over the change in the country's leadership. That was after a military-backed civilian revolt forced then President Joseph Estrada to step down and give way to Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Nazareno declined to comment on the existence of this letter.

"There are a lot of talks, but I cannot speculate. The reason they gave us was the legal problems," he said. The PDIC earlier gave the Export and Industry Bank until May 15 to conclude rehabilitation talks with the shareholders and depositors of Urban Bank.

In a news statement, Nazareno said ExportBank and its partner, the National Association of Urban Depositors and Creditors, would have to sign by May 15 an agreement that would commit the Social Security System into infusing some P600 million in fresh capital into Urban Bank.

The SSS, a major shareholder of Urban Bank, has already expressed support for ExportBank's and Naud's rehabilitation plan, despite opposition in the Senate.

Senate Minority Leader Rene Cayetano said earlier the plan to use P600 million of the SSS' funds to reopen Urban Bank would only aggravate the SSS' financial situation.

Nazareno said ExportBank and Naud would also have to work out a memorandum of understanding with Urban Bank's three major depositors—San Miguel Corp., Petron Corp. and Manila Electric Co.—on a longer pay-out terms, and with the bank's shareholders regarding their equity claims.

ExportBank and Naud are hoping to reopen Urban Bank by July 1.

SMC finalizes Pure Foods takeover deal worth ₱7B

By Doris C. Dumlao

SAN Miguel Corp. has finalized a P7-billion deal with the Ayala group for the acquisition of food manufacturer Pure Foods Corp.

SMC vice chair Ramon Ang told reporters after the company's stockholders' meeting Thursday night that the definitive agreement that will govern the takeover would be signed within the next few days.

Ang said the P7-billion valuation covered all assets of Pure Foods, except the operations of fast-food chain Burger King. On top of the P7 billion to be paid to the Ayalas, he said SMC would have to allocate another P1 billion to cover Pure Foods' outstanding debts.

"But remember that Pure Foods has a cash on hand of P500 million. It's a very good deal," Ang said.

Ang noted that the negotiations with the Ayalas almost broke down on May 1 due to valuation issues. However, he said SMC was able to close the deal at P7 billion, much lower than the P15 billion asking price of the Ayalas.

Ang noted that SMC was able to get a last-minute discount of P1 billion for Pure Foods, as the Ayalas had wanted no less than P9 billion for the deal, including the value of debt assumption.

He said the Ayalas had even agreed to include Pure Foods' Philippine Basketball Association's franchise in the deal. But even if the franchise would now be at SMC's disposal, an official said the conglomerate would have to sell the franchise because the PBA does not allow any company to own more than two teams in the league. SMC now owns the San Miguel and Ginebra franchises.

DISCLOSURES

SAN Miguel Corp. declared a P0.25 per share cash dividend, payable on June 15, in favor of stockholders as of May 18.

* * *

ZIPPORAH Realty Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 16, 3 p.m. at the Manila Golf Club. Stockholders of record as of May 21 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

CORRO-COAT Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 11, 1 p.m. at Club Filipino in Greenhills. Stockholders of record as of May 22 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

ANGLO Philippine Holdings Corp. moved its annual stockholders' meeting to July 27, 3 p.m. at the Batanes Room of Shangri-La Edsa Plaza Hotel.

* * *

AGP Industrial Corp. moved its annual stockholders' meeting to June 15. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, May 4, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	78	78	77	78	859,200
China Banking Corp.	655	660	655	660	180
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	43	43.5	43	43.5	232,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	214	215	213	213	106,080
Prudential Bank	450	450	450	450	2,490
Philippine National Bank	44	44.5	44	44.5	41,900
Security Bank Corp.	18	18.25	18	18	321,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	44,700
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard, Inc.	1.44	1.48	1.44	1.48	189,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1255	1260	1255	1260	2,870
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1000	1025	1000	1020	27,280
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	39.5	40	39.5	40	16,200
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.44	2,220,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	690	690	685	685	650
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	100,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	110,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	36,000
Piltel	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	90,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	700	705	695	700	66,330
Ivantage Corp.	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	110,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.04	0.043	0.04	0.043	76,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	41.5	42	41.5	42	25,500
Manila Electric Co. B	53	54	53	54	899,100
Petron Corp.	1.7	1.74	1.64	1.7	5,251,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.26	1.36	1.26	1.32	4,406,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	0.35	0.4	0.35	0.4	260,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	100,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.39	0.4	0.37	0.37	1,150,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.12	1.12	506,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	1.8	2.12	1.8	2.12	310,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.75	13.25	13.5	122,100
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	30	30	30	30	104,800
RFM Corp.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	1,430,000
San Miguel Corp. A	46	46	45.5	46	52,600
San Miguel Corp. B	50	51.5	50	50.5	687,700
Universal Robina Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	129,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	210,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	100,000
Ayala Corp.	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.6	845,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.22	1.24	1.22	1.24	120,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.25	12.5	12	12.25	2,200
A. Soriano Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	200,000
APC Group Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	50,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	7,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.46	6,142,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	320,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.37	0.42	0.37	0.39	2,690,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.02	1.06	1.02	1.06	478,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	22.75	23.75	22.75	23.75	110,300
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.23	0.25	0.23	0.25	2,430,000
Ipeople Inc.	1	1	1	1	10,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	120,000
Megaworld Corp	0.77	0.78	0.77	0.77	390,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.48	0.49	0.48	0.48	2,060,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.55	0.59	0.55	0.58	2,280,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.8	5.P	5.8	5.8	10,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	860,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc	0 25	0 26	0 25	0 25	1,230,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
A Brown Company Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Corro-Coat Inc	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	10,000
Music Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	8,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	270,000
SPI Technologies Inc	14 5	15	14.5	15	273,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.47	0.51	0.47	0.49	2,010,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.52	0.49	0.52	5,370,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp	0 53	0.53	0 53	0.53	450,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr	39 5	40	39 5	39.5	46,900
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	40,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	5,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10	10	2,300
Philweb.Com,Inc -Warrants	0.021	0 021	0.021	0.021	1,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5 7	5.6	5.6	3,685,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	300,000
Cebu Holdings Inc	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	50,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	700,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	500,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	1,870,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.08	2.18	2.08	2.18	9,745,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.05	0.055	0.048	0.048	14,300,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	150,000
SM Development Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	40,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7	7.1	6.9	7	3,145,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.1	0.1	0.095	0.095	5,100,000
Mining					
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	5,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.004	0.004	0.0038	0.0038	7,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	150,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	200,000
Oil					
Imperial Res.	0.021	0.024	0.021	0.024	18,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	2,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	20,000
Pacifica	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.016	37,800,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	200,000
Vulcan Ind'l.	0.17	0 17	0.17	0.17	2,100,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,827,000	141,330,785.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	137,234,580	196,275,515.00
PRO	39,585,000	66,099,630.00
Mining	12,350,000	126,900.00
OIL	60,120,000	1,397,600.00
GRAND TOTALS:	251,116,580	405,230,430.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	611.44	UP 0.51
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,964.22	UP 16.72
PRO	574.35	UP 2.52
Mining	1,147.49	DOWN 8.86
OIL	1.53	UP 0.07
All Shares Index	747.97	UP 8.08
Composite	1,442.46	UP 12.07

NO. OF ADVANCES: 50; NO. OF DECLINES: 14; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 38; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES 102; NO. OF TRADES: 2,426

CURRENCIES

May 4, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.122839	1.000000	50.4590
Japan	Yen	0.009254	0.008242	0.4159
United Kingdom	Pound	1.613294	1.436800	72.4995
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.143976	0.128225	6.4701
Switzerland	Franc	0.648440	0.577501	29.1401
Canada	Dollar	0.733163	0.652955	32.9475
Singapore	Dollar	0.617215	0.549692	27.7369
Australia	Dollar	0.585666	0.521594	26.3191
Bahrain	Dinar	2.978510	2.652661	133.8506
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.299391	0.266638	13.4543
Brunei	Dollar	0.616436	0.548998	27.7019
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000101	0.000090	0.0045
Thailand	Baht	0.024732	0.022026	1.1114
UAE	Dirham	0.305742	0.272294	13.7397
Korea	Won	0.000868	0.000773	0.0390
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.890600	44.9388
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.455357	22.9769
France	Franc	0.152450	0.135771	6.8509
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.404137	20.3923
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.064722	3.2658
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022077	1.1140
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000460	0.0232
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.149788	7.5582
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004442	0.2241
Spain	Peseta	0.006011	0.005353	0.2701
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022077	1.1140
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.130829	57.0605

SEC asks PSE to submit demutualization plan

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission said it would allow the demutualization of the Philippine Stock Exchange without requiring the exchange to undergo dissolution.

PSE president Ramon Garcia earlier asked the Commission whether the exchange could demutualize by a mere amendment of its articles of incorporation.

He also asked if the Commission could exempt the PSE member-brokers and dealers from the mandated 20-percent ownership cap.

The Securities Regulation Code mandates the PSE to demutualize or transform into a stock corporation, and limits to 20 percent the ownership of brokers.

In a letter to the PSE, SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said that since PSE's demutualization was mandated, the SEC would not object if the exchange would decide to give each member, in exchange for their current membership interests, the right to trade on the exchange as well as own shares of stock based on the rights and privileges of PSE members.

Bautista noted that a mere amendment would not result in the distribution of assets to members unlike in the case of dissolution.

The shares of stock, however, would have to be properly valued with the approval of the Commission, Bautista said.

Valuation of the assets will also need the Commission's prior approval.

Bautista said the PSE should offer to the public, preferably to institutional investors consisting of business and industry groups, the remaining unissued shares by way of private placement.

Bautista requested Garcia to submit the exchange's detailed demutualization plan not later than May 20 to give the Commission ample time to review it and to work on necessary amendments.

She also directed Garcia to submit documents, including a deed of donation for the Tektite Tower and the PSE Plaza, valuation of PSE assets and the proposed corporate structure and governance of the PSE.

UCPB deal with Danding questioned

(From page B1)

regain control of UCPB.

The PCGG noted that Cojuangco admitted to owning PCY Oil and pledged his alleged San Miguel shares to secure the borrowings of these private oil mills. The PCGG asked: "If these private oil mills were not his, why then would he pledge his alleged San Miguel shares?"

The PCGG is charging Kilayko of making a deposit of P200 million to the private oil mills which the agency claimed was equal to six years of rental or P3 million a month.

Four months after signing the MOA, the PCGG said Kilayko signed a supplemental agreement wherein he exercised the right to purchase the private oil mills for P879 million without a proper valuation or procedure for the use of public funds or approval from the UCPB board or CIIF oil mills. The PCGG claimed that mills are roughly 20 years old and are likely to be mothballed.

Based on the agreement, P180 million of the P200 million deposit made by CIIF was used to pay part of the price tag for the oil mills with P422.052 million coming from the receivables from the private oil mills. The balance of P277.572 million would be paid by the end of this year.

The PCGG stressed that the funds have already been released to the private oil mills even though the deal has not been cleared with the concerned agencies. "The private oil mills are under PCGG sequestration as being ill-gotten wealth. Yet, no prior approval from the PCGG or Sandiganbayan was secured," the PCGG said.

However, Kilayko revealed that the CIIF board of directors (which he also chairs) approved the lease on 22 September 1999 for two oil mills and a similar agreement was signed 16 October 1999 for Southern Island and Indophil.

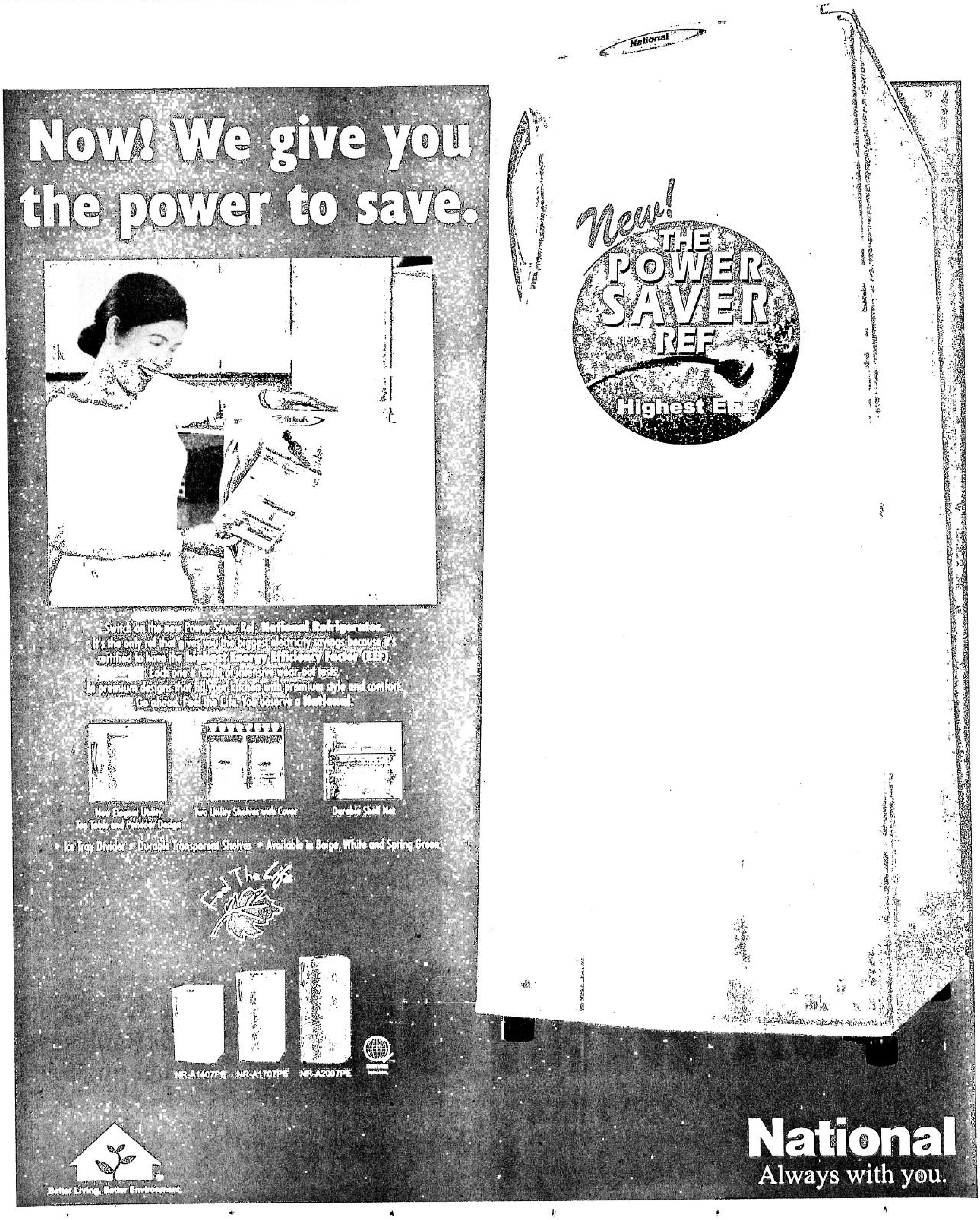
Aside from questioning the legality of the transaction, the PCGG is also questioning the soundness of the purchase of additional oil mills considering that the CIIF mills were underutilized and copra production is on the wane.

The CIIF oils have operated historically at below (between 35 percent and 69 percent) its capacity of 800,000 metric tons a year because copra production has not kept pace with the industry's milling capacity.

Assuming a 69-percent capacity utilization rate, the CIIF mills would still have an excess milling capacity for 240,000 metric tons per year. Also, when the MOA was signed in 1999, the PCGG said the coconut industry suffered an acute shortage of copra due to El Nino which further led to more idle capacity in the industry.

But Kilayko noted that Philippine copra production doubled to 2.4 million metric tons in 2000 from 1.2 million metric tons in 1999 which justified the lease of additional capacity from the private oil mills. CIIF oil mills chief finance officer Rey Blas said the fund realized P100 million income from the deal.

Kilayko stressed that CIIF approved the deal "in view of the upsurge in copra supply in the fourth quarter of 1999 and expectations of better copra supply situation." Also, Kilayko said the CIIF's own oil mills were scheduled for maintenance work which meant that they would be running at less than full capacity.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Business groups drop hints of choice for new DOF chief

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE PHILIPPINE Chamber of Commerce and Industry yesterday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to give priority to the stability of economic reforms in the ongoing revamp of her economic management team.

Ms Macapagal was forced to revamp her Cabinet after her executive secretary, Renato de Villa, went on an indefinite leave to undergo heart surgery.

De Villa, who underwent triple heart bypass surgery last week, was reportedly advised by his doctors to take things easy for a while.

The President has appointed Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo as De Villa's replacement. She has yet to name a new finance secretary.

Three names have cropped up as leading candidates to take the helm at the Department of Finance. They are Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II, former Finance Undersecretary Milwida Guevarra and Land Bank of the Philippines president Margarito Teves.

PCCI president Miguel Varela said while he believed Roxas would prove equally competent as finance secretary, his appointment to the Department of Finance would leave a void in the Department of Trade and Industry.

"He would be sorely missed at the DTI. Unlike other agencies, Roxas was able to put his house in order more quickly and efficiently to address the concerns of businessmen that have been pending for the past few months," he said.

Varela said putting Roxas in the DOF would mean that two key economic agencies of the government would have new leaders that would require a period of adjustment.

He said the business community could not afford to wait for the finance and trade department's new secretaries to adjust to their jobs because of the pressing issues that had been placed on the backburner because of the country's simmering political crisis.

Other businessmen reckoned that the President should look to putting respected individuals with long experience at the finance department who could hit the ground running like Guevarra, who led the government's tax reform efforts under the Ramos administration.

Businessmen were also backing Teves as the new finance secretary because of his experience in government financial matters with his long experience as a lawmaker.

Roxas has replaced Romulo in the Monetary Board, a strong indication that he was about to also replace Romulo as finance chief.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said, however, that Roxas was appointed to the Monetary Board, the policy-making body of the Bangko Sentral, in his capacity as trade secretary.

If Roxas leaves trade, the post is expected to go to Vincent Perez, current undersecretary and managing head of the Board of Investments.

Roxas, however, said yesterday he was "very happy where I am." He said there has been "no word, official or otherwise," about his being offered the post of finance secretary by President Macapagal.

"These are just rumors," he said.

Globe, SingTel sign network service deal

BY ANTHONY O. ALCANTARA

GLOBE Telecom Inc. has signed a network service agreement with Singapore Telecom to provide its corporate clients business communication links with their counterparts in Asia.

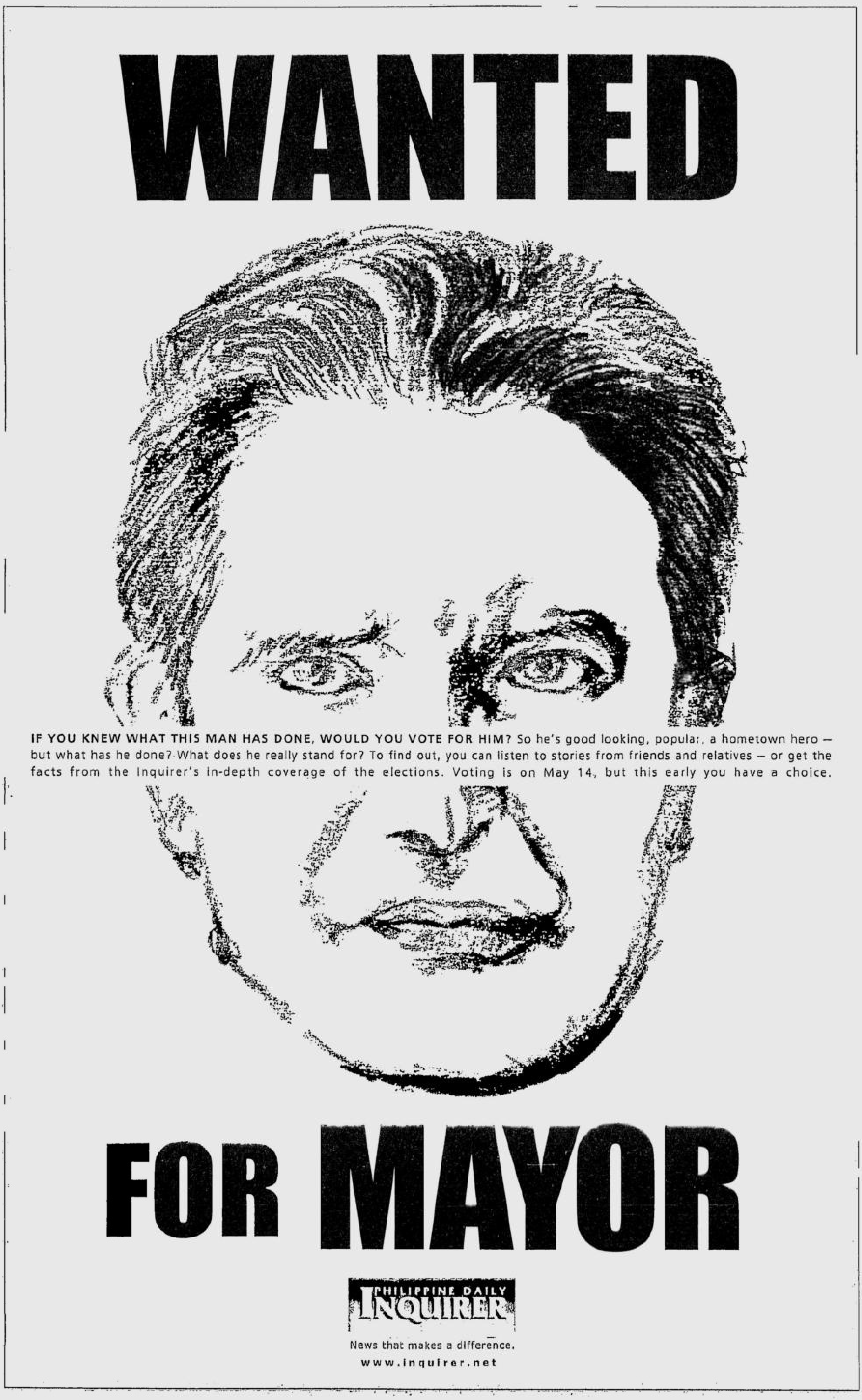
The agreement will allow users of GlobeData services to tap into SingTel's ConnectPlus managed network solution, which has links to Australia, Hong Kong, India, China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Korea, Thailand and Singapore. ConnectPlus also has direct connection to the United Kingdom and the United States.

Globe assistant vice president for business communication Jesus Romero said in a statement that Globe's corporate clients could have access to the four services of ConnectPlus that can support voice, fax and data communications.

These services include international leased circuit, frame relay, Internet protocol and Corporate Voice.

"Our priority is to ensure that GlobeData services are available to our customers, wherever they need them, and with service support standards that they are used to," Romero said.

ConnectPlus provides a "one-stop shop" concept for service ordering, billing, technical and sales support to help companies stay competitive, productive and cost efficient. Before the agreement with SingTel, Globe had to deal with various foreign carriers to provide regional connectivity.



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DOF sees deficit falling to 4% of GDP

FINANCE Secretary Alberto Romulo said yesterday he was hopeful the Philippines could reduce its budget deficit to below 4 percent of gross domestic product for the current calendar year.

Speaking on Reuters Television, Romulo said with new fiscal discipline measures in place, "not only can we hit our target but we are hoping it will be less than that."

The government has estimated it will post a budget deficit of P145 billion, or 4 percent of GDP for full-year 2001.

Romulo also said he was confident that key 91-day Treasury bill rates could be kept at 10 to 11 percent for the balance of the year.

At the last government treasury bill auction, the government accepted a rate of 10.102 percent for its 91-day papers.

Romulo also expected the inflation rate to be maintained at between 6 and 7 percent for the rest of the year. *Reuters*

Equitable chair says ₱700-M net 'not bad'

THE NEW chair of Equitable PCI Bank said yesterday he would regard it as not a bad year if the bank could post a net income of P600 million to P700 million this year.

"(If) we can still show a P600-million to P700-million (net income), I think that's not a bad year for us," Equitable PCI Bank chair Deogracias Vistan told local television.

Vistan was appointed Wednesday to replace Wilfrido Vergara, who tendered his resignation at a stockholders' meeting last month.

Vergara previously projected the bank, the third-largest in the Philippines, would post a net income of P600 million to P700 million this year. In 1999, it posted a net income of P638 million.

The bank was forced to tap a P30-billion emergency loan from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas after it suffered an outflow of deposits late last year over allegations it had been used to keep some of former President Joseph Estrada's secret accounts.

The allegations arose during Estrada's impeachment trial.

President Macapagal-Arroyo succeeded Estrada in January and declared a state of rebellion on Tuesday after Estrada supporters tried to storm the presidential palace.

Estrada is being held in a maximum-security detention center awaiting trial on corruption charges. He denies any wrongdoing.

More recently, the Equitable PCI Bank board rejected all bids for a strategic stake in the bank, preferring to tap fresh capital from existing shareholders. *Reuters*

Trust Properties kicks off China State Spark Plan

PROPERTY and marketing agent Trust Properties Pte Ltd. will today launch in the Philippines the China State Spark Plan Project of Guangdong Minchang Fruit Industry Co. Ltd.

Trust Properties is now holding a two-day exhibit at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel for the project, which allows investors to own a 3,333-square-meter longan plantation near Guangong and Guanxi provinces and to get an annual return from the sale of longans after two years.

For a one-time investment of $14,800, investors will be entitled to the land and 100 longan trees for 50 years.

Minchang will carry out the unified planning, management and sales of the orchard and will distribute the proceeds.

Investors are expected to get back their investment in six years followed by an average annual net profit of $8,600 after.

Rizal Bank says Q1 net up 35.9%

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. said yesterday its estimated first quarter net income was P140 million, up 35.92 percent from P103 million the year earlier.

The bank told the Philippine Stock Exchange the rise was due mainly to improved consumer business income, higher overseas Filipino worker remittances, participation in syndicated loans to the central bank and foreign exchange gains.

It added that the increase was also supported by the containment of operating costs. *Reuter*

Napocor rejects Indon firm's coal shipment

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. has turned down further coal shipments from an Indonesian supplier based on complaints about product quality.

Independent power producer Mirant Philippines reportedly did not want any more coal from Indomico Mandiri because the fuel "did not meet the energy conversion agreement specifications."

According to a trader privy to the negotiations, the coal was said to contain mainly volatile matter and fixed carbon, which made it less efficient than what was required.

Mirant is the owner and operator of the Napocor-contracted, 700-megawatt Pagbilao power plant in Quezon Province.

Indomico Mandiri's contract, one of the firsts to be approved, specifies deliveries of seven panamax shipments of coal.

A panamax is equivalent to 60,000 tons.

The contract also had an option for three more shipments of coal.

The Indonesian firm was able to deliver four shipments that were originally intended for the 1,000-mw Sual generator.

However, two of the four shipments were diverted to the Pagbilao plant.

Napocor officials earlier told reporters an imminent fuel shortage was averted with the approval of four out of 11 coal-supply contracts.

The officials said they resorted to negotiation of contracts and had asked suppliers to deliver fuel even without an approved contract.

One such supplier was Indomico Mandiri, which was able to make three deliveries in good faith.

Another supplier, Shanxi of China, has delivered in good faith six panamax shipments.

Shanxi won a negotiated contract for six shipments with an option for four more.

However, the Chinese supplier is still waiting for the approval of its contract, which the National Economic Development Authority is still deliberating on.

ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

Where is the slowing economy taking banks?

THE GLOBAL economic slowdown may appear to be threatening the progress of the Asia-Pacific region's banking industry. The only consolation is the fact that while growth has been slow, economies have not ground to a halt either.

In comparison to Asian banking systems where fragility has been around since 1997, the recent US economic slide, with large American banks reporting lower-than-expected net income, is nothing new or surprising. In any case, loan growth in this region has not been the same since the 1997 crisis.

The good news is that interest rates are back to or below 1996 levels. This may indicate that Asian banks are once again in a competitive position to provide for economic growth, even in troubled economies like Korea, Thailand and Indonesia.

One investment bank director pointed out that any export-led recovery in Asia would not affect loans growth as this is dominated by the multinational corporations. Most MNCs do not take loans from local banks and as such, banks have been concentrating less on corporate loans as opposed to consumer loans.

Consumer banking has been the only sector where nominal growth has been identified. Banks with strong product and value propositions and customer relationship management in place may find opportunities in difficult times. In terms of risk management, it has become apparent for banks in some countries to undertake regulatory reforms to change their capital adequacy ratios by 2004. Operationally, technology has to be in place and though it is not much of a yardstick, processes have to be installed and implemented.

Sound and mature economies like Hong Kong and Singapore may appear stable.

For the moment, Singapore banks have ample opportunities for restructuring, with excess capital to purchase outside. However, the main drawback with Singapore banks is that management usually lacks the business savvy to take advantage of the opportunities around.

The banking system in Hong Kong is solid. In fact, in a recent media briefing, Standard and Poor's said that banks in the territory enjoy good capitalization and come under strong regulatory oversight. Moreover, the continued economic growth in mainland China this year will encourage Hong Kong's prospects.

However, the extent of the US downturn and speed of interest rate cuts remain the major risks to Hong Kong's growth. Banks will follow further rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve and private consumption will increase late this year. It is widely speculated that continued economic recovery will absorb excess bank liquidity.

Central banks in Korea, Indonesia and Thailand are now expected to tweak their interest rates. Banks in Korea and Thailand are starting to make money on lending, but not a lot. Banks in these countries under-provided for potential bad loans and there is no formal pressure from the regulator to recognize losses unless the economy worsens.

A prolonged US economic recovery is the key risk for these banks. Analysts have expressed concern this year that Bank of Thailand's tighter monitoring of onshore-offshore trading will not change fundamental trends.

In Indonesia, interest rates are expected to increase further this year, making the banking sector vulnerable, with the availability of financing remaining a huge question mark. There are some issues that Jakarta has to resolve first with the International Monetary Fund, like Bank Indonesia's independence, regional government borrowing and the equal treatment of banking and corporate restructuring.

On the whole, the regional banking industry, except for Indonesia, can look forward to modest growth. *The Asian Banker*

April inflation

(From page B1)

increases based on foreign exchange spikes.

She also noted that based on talks with consumer companies, higher demand linked to the election was not likely to peak until toward the end of the campaign period. She said the impact in terms of inflationary pressure has been split between April and May.

Meanwhile, the country's month-on-month inflation rose to 0.3 percent in April from 0.1 percent in March.

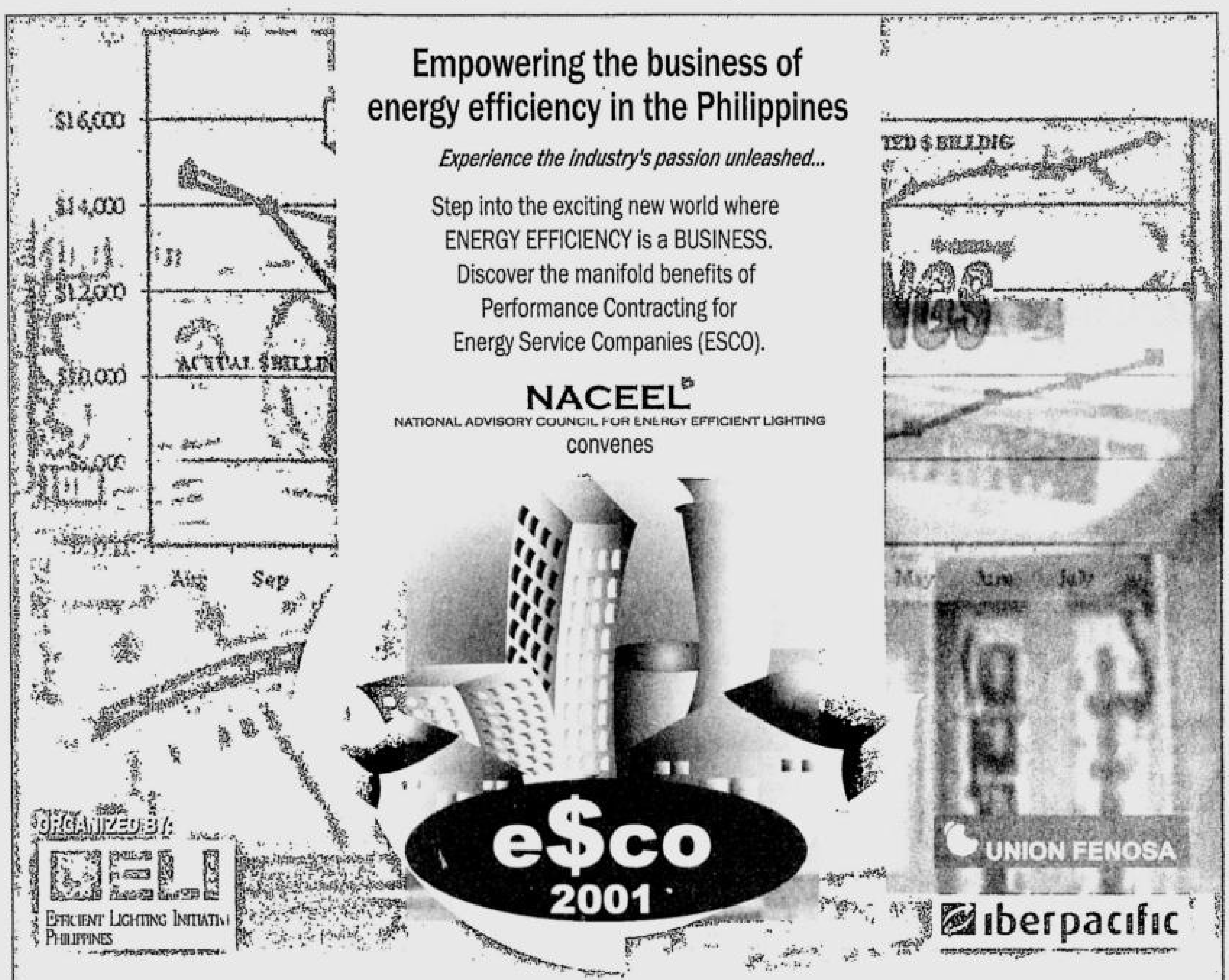
Based on the NSO report, the annual inflation rate for the food, beverage and tobacco group increased to 4.2 percent in April from 4.0 percent in March and miscellaneous items, 7.6 percent from 7.4 percent.

The rate for housing and repairs decelerated to 6.8 percent from 7.0 percent and fuel, light and water group, to 13.8 percent from 14.3 percent.

On a monthly basis, the index for fruits and vegetables increased in Metro Manila to 1.9 percent in April from -1.7 percent in March due to the seasonal (Holy Week) peaking in demand.

However, in areas outside Metro Manila, vegetables were sold cheaper. Discounts were also noted in the prices of mangoes, bananas, pineapple and papayas in the markets due to continued abundant supply. The price of rice, the country's main staple and a big component of the food group, has been increasing nationwide as the end of the harvest season approached.

The price of pork also went up in many areas as consumers shifted from beef to pork due to the mad cow disease scare. Fish prices during the month were likewise higher in most regions due to seasonal peaking of demand.



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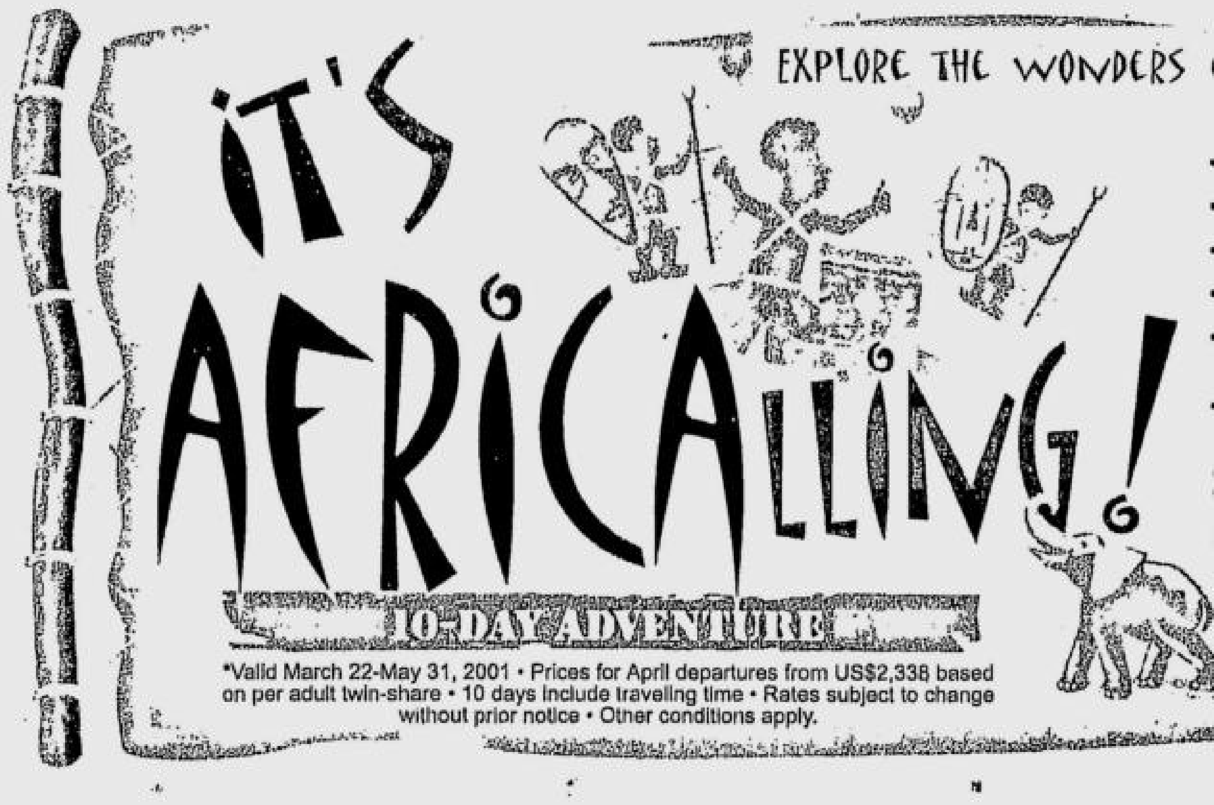

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late VICTORIA O. LUSTRE has been extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc. #314; Page#63; Book # 455; Series of 2001 before Notary Public Atty. Joel G Gordola
PDI-April 21, 28 & May 5, 2001

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given to the public on the loss of **Alabang Country Club Stock Certificate No. B-279 in the name of Singer Sewing Machine Company.** If no contest received, new certificate will be issued.
PDI-May 5, 12 & 19, 2001

NOTICE of loss the following shares of stock WILLIAM C. LIU have been declared lost BPI cert. nos. 129567 /129568

The following shares of stock of WILLIAM C. LIU have been declared lost : BPI certificate nos. 129567 /129568
(PDI-May 5, 12 & 19, 2001)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my Ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dia logue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no mat ter how great the material desires maybe. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen. - SANDY

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2ND INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

All corporations registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and with extensive experience in the supply and installation of Shower Enclosures and Lighting Fixtures for office buildings are invited to apply for pre-qualification and to bid for the following Contract Packages for the new LBP HQ Building in Ermita, Manila, with the following schedule.

Project Title	Estimated Cost	Issuance of Pre-C	Issuance of Notice of Prequalification/ Predisqualification	Issuance of Bid Docs	Pre-Bid Conference	Bidding Date
Contract Package No 25 Supply and Installation of Shower Enclosure	Php 5.5 Million	May 7 to 9, 2001 10:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.	May 24, 2001	May 25, 2001 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.	May 29, 2001 9:00 A.M.	June 14, 2001 9:00 A.M.
Contract Package No 33 Supply and Installation of Elevator Lobby Lighting, Teller Counter Lighting and Wall Scounge Lighting Fixtures	Php 9 Million	May 7 to 9, 2001 10:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.	May 24, 2001	May 25, 2001 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.	May 29, 2001 11:00 A.M.	June 14, 2001 11:00 A.M.

All interested suppliers/installers may obtain Pre-C application forms from the Project Management Engineering Department (PMED) 2F LBP Bldg 3-315 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City, upon payment of a non-refundable procesing fee of P1,000.00.

Duly accomplished Pre-qualification Statement (Pre-C) shall be submitted to the above-stated office not later than 5:00 PM, May 16, 2001 after which no Pre-C will be accepted. All participating suppliers/installers shall be notified in writing of their pre-qualification/ or pre-disqualification.

Only pre-qualified suppliers/installers may secure Bid Documents at the PMED Office upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P 1,000.00.

Pre-bid conference will be held at the FMGSG Conference Room, 2nd Flr., LBP Building 3, 319 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City.

Bidding shall be conducted at the same venue as the Pre-bid conference using the two (2) sealed envelopes system (envelopes "A & B") to be submitted at the said date and time, after which no envelopes will be received.

LBP reserves the right to change the date of issuance of bid documents, pre-bid conference, submission of bids and the bidding date. Due notice of changes shall however be communicated by LBP to pre-qualified bidders.

LBP likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid, and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Bank.

(Sgd.) GILDA E. PICO
Chairman
LBP Sub-Committee on the LBP HQ Plaza

(PDI--May 3, 4 & 5, 2001)

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Office of the Secretary

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education, Culture and Sports is inviting all DECS Accredited Suppliers for the Installation of Network System for Communications at the Office of the Secretary.

All interested suppliers must submit a Letter of Intent before obtaining bid documents starting **May 7 to 15, 2001** at the PBAC Secretariat Office, Rm 112 A. Mabini Bldg., ULTRA Complex, Pasig City.

A pre-bid conference will be held on **May 20, 2001**, 10:00 AM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. I, ULTRA Complex, Pasig City. The Submission and Opening of Bids will be on May 29, 2001 at the same time and place mentioned above.

DECS-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO S. PANGAN**
Undersecretary

(PDI--May 5, 6 & 7, 2001)

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Our Dearly Beloved Tatay

WILFREDO "WOOD" C. VILLAMOR

of Batangas City

Peacefully joined his Creator on May 3, 2001 at the age of 81.

His late wife **Juana T. Villamor** (†); loving children and in-laws **Vilma** and **Eddie Cataquis, William** (†), **Donna** and **Nestor Resurreccion**, and **John**; grandchildren **Joh-an, Michelle** and **Bryan Cataquis, Kristin, Karen** and **Jonas Resurreccion**; brothers and sisters and in-laws, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Royal Chapel, Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque City. His body will be transferred to Basilica of Immaculate Conception Mortuary on Sunday, May 6, 2001.

Interment will be on Tuesday, May 8, 2001 at Batangas Catholic Cemetery at 2:00 p.m. after the 1:00 p.m. Holy Mass.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." Matthew 10:39

Our Dearly Beloved Father

RICARDO PASCUAL VELASCO

Peacefully joined his Creator on May 02, 2001 at the age of 76.

His loving family **Bernard, Vina, Anne, Menchie, Gino, Ric, Samantha, Erika, Denise, Gian, Agustin, Cynthia, Baby, Josie, Ronnie**; relatives and dear friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Santuario de San Antonio, Capilla del Señor, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, May 8, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Santuario de San Antonio.

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"Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it so much as dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love Him"
Corinth[illegible]

Augusto Nicanor "Toti" V. Lopez

of Sucat Road, Parañaque City
(December 11, 1956 - May 2, 2001)
Has joined his Creator on May 2, 2001 at the age of 44.
Lourdes School of Mandaluyong Class '74

Survived by his father Engr. Johnny F. Lopez, mother Ma. Esperanza "Ching" V. Lopez (†); brothers Joji, Dodo, John-John, his sister Gina; dear relatives and friends request the kind readers to pray for his eternal rest.

His remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Sunday, May 6, 2001 3:30 PM at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

In Loving Memory
On the First Death Anniversary of

ANNA GRISELDA ORENDAIN SALES

Holy Masses will be offered at the following Churches

National Shrine of the Sacred Heart of Jesus *Dao Street, San Antonio Village, Makati City*	May 8, 2001	6:30 PM
St. Augustine Church *Hartford Connecticut*	May 6, 2001	8:00 AM
Shrine of Our Lady of Manaoag *Pangasinan*	May 4, 2001 May 6, 2001	7:00 AM 9:00 AM
St. Martin de Porres *UPS I Parañaque City*	May 6, 2001 May 8, 2001	6:00 AM 6:00 AM
Baclaran Church	May 6, 2001 May 8, 2001	6:00 AM 6:45 AM

We request the pious reader to join us in our prayers for the eternal repose of our beloved's soul.

In Loving Memory
on the THIRTIETH DEATH ANNIVERSARY of

DR. BIENVENIDO B. ERAÑA

Holy Masses will be offered tomorrow, Sunday, May 6, 2001
at the following Churches:

Immaculate Conception, *Lantana, Cubao, Quezon City*	6:00 AM
Mary the Queen, *Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila*	6:00 AM
St. John the Baptist, *Pinaglabanan, San Juan, Metro Manila*	6:00 AM
Santuario de San Antonio, *Forbes Park, Makati City*	6:15 AM
Christ the King, *E. Rodriguez, Sr. Boulevard, Quezon City*	6:30 AM
St. John Bosco, *Arnaiz Street, Makati City*	6:30 AM
Our Lady of Edsa, *Ortigas, Quezon City*	6:30 AM
Espiritu Santo, *Rizal Avenue, Manila*	7:00 AM
Manila Metropolitan, Cathedral, *Intramuros, Manila*	7:00 AM
Santuario de San Jose, *Greenhills, Mandaluyong*	7:15 AM
Our Lady of Lourdes, *Kanlaon corner Retiro, Quezon City*	8:00 AM
Sto. Domingo, *Quezon Avenue, Quezon City*	8:00 AM
St. Vincent de Paul, *San Marcelino, Manila*	9:00 AM
Sta. Cruz, *Sta. Cruz, Manila*	9:30 AM
Mt. Carmel, *J. Rodriguez, New Manila, Quezon City*	6:00 PM

We, his family, request relatives, friends and pious readers to join us in prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

The family of the late

MARINA A. CALDERON

who peacefully joined her Creator on May 4, 2001 at the age of 86.

Wishes to inform relatives and friends that her body lies in state at Chapel B-7 South Wing of La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at Himlayan Pilipino and date will be announced later.

Our Dearly Beloved

Margarette "Margie" Gonzales y Mendoza

Peacefully joined our Lord on May 3, 2001 at the age of 30.

Her bereaved husband, **MARK ANTHONY**; daughter **MARY GRACE** (†); mother **MARGARITA BERNANDINO**; sister **MA. LOURDES**; brothers **RODELIO** and **CORNELIO**; mother-in-law **CONSUL LUNINGNING R. GONZALES**, nieces, nephews, brothers- & sisters-in-law, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Capilla dela Virgen, Santuario San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati.

Interment will be announced later.

DR. EUGENIO S. DE LEON

December 13, 1916 – April 20, 2001
UP College of Medicine, Class '41

We wish to convey our heartfelt gratitude to all who shared and helped ease our pain over the loss of a dearly loved one.

Your prayers, Mass offerings, flowers, words of comfort, thoughtful presence, and acts of kindness greatly alleviated our sorrow.

We will forever be grateful for the caring shown by the doctors, hospital staff, personnel and owners of the University of Perpetual Help Rizal Medical Center, family, and friends, during Tatay's illness and will treasure this as part of his beautiful memory.

Geling, Alice, Willie & Sybil, Tito & Kay, Chuchi & Sue, Dora & Saty, Aileen, Aimee & Erwin, Goeffrey & Pia, Alexis & Justin, Andrea, Laura & Tommy; Anton, David, & Martin.

Our Dearly Beloved

MARIA TRINIDAD HONORIO

of Marilao, Bulacan

Joined her husband Cirilo, Sr. in the Grace of our Lord on April 29, 2001 at the age of 96.

Her bereaved children **Cirilo, Jr.** (†) **& Dra. Victoria Isidro, Lucilo & Norma San Juan, Rafael & Dra. Emma Zaballero, Rosauro & Linda Padilla, Manuel** (†) **& Dra. Vilma Pademal, Angelita & Ernesto Duran**; grandchildren, great-grandchildren and other relatives, thank God for having blessed us with someone like her.

Her remains lie in state at Bokal Eny Duran residence at Poblacion 2, Marilao, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Sunday, May 6, 2001 at Marilao Catholic Cemetery, after 3:00 p.m. Holy Mass.

HIGHER PRICES

Foreign control to hurt Indonesian cement

JAKARTA—Growing foreign control of Indonesia's cement industry could hurt the troubled country by pushing up prices, jeopardizing already pared development projects aimed at helping millions of disaffected poor.

Local analysts said domination of the sector by three global heavyweights—while bailing out some indebted local firms—could also hit minority shareholders from the sale of semi-finished product to offshore affiliates at below market prices.

Indonesia sank into a crisis in 1997 and has to tread warily to keep a lid on social unrest triggered by the ruined economy.

Cash-strapped Jakarta has little money to throw at infrastructure projects but needs to create jobs and support low-cost development to cushion the blow for those suffering most.

"They can cooperate to control output to increase prices. Indonesia needs cement to support infrastructure development," said Djoko Mashari, a spokesperson at state-run PT Semen Gresik, the country's largest cement producer.

One local stock analyst said it was inevitable the foreign firms would hike currently cheap prices to bring them in line with neighboring countries.

"This is not beneficial for Indonesians, it is only good (for Indonesia) in terms of technology. If we weren't in crisis, then these firms would not be sold," said the analyst.

Gresik is being taken over by Mexico's Cemex under a deal made with Jakarta more than two years ago. Cemex owns 25.5 percent of Gresik, although plans to take control have been stymied by objections from two key Gresik units.

Germany's Heidelberger Zement AG recently acquired a majority stake in Indonesia's second largest cement producer, indebted PT Indocement Tunggal Prakarsa.

And by the middle of the year, Swiss cement giant Holderbank plans to take over the third largest local producer, PT Semen Cibinong, also troubled with large debts.

Some foreign analysts said the takeovers would inject much needed cash into the firms, bring expertise and prove international investors could play a key role in resurrecting Indonesia's private sector despite nationalistic objections.

But once in full control, the three foreign firms would effectively run Indonesia's cement industry.

The government currently controls some 40 percent of cement output capacity, largely through Gresik. Total domestic installed capacity is 47 million tons per year, although sales were only 30.7 million tons including exports in 2000.

Close to 30 percent of that was exported.

Gresik's annual installed capacity is 17.25 million tons, Indocement 15.4 million and Cibinong 9.7 million.

Average domestic cement prices are around 300,000 rupiah ($27) per ton compared to neighbors such as the Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand where prices are around $50 per ton.

Local prices in US dollar terms are low by world standards because of overcapacity and the plunging rupiah.

However, one analyst from a European securities firm said the large debts of Indonesian cement firms would help cap significant price rises because such companies would be loathe to sacrifice market share as they try to service their debts.

"The firms have huge debts and need healthy volume growth to service their debts," he said. Cibinong has $1.2 billion in debts, while Indocement has more than $900 million. By comparison, Gresik has only some $300 million in debts, analysts say.

Some local analysts expressed concern that once in place, foreign players might also export semi-finished products at below market prices to their key plants outside Indonesia, maximizing parent shareholder value at the expense of local shareholders.

The practice is known as transfer pricing.

"It's a trend that foreign cement operators have entered Southeast Asia to secure cheap resources because they are more concerned about parent performance and offshore shareholders rather than locals," the European brokerage analyst said.

An Indocement spokesperson ruled out such a possibility, saying high export transport costs would force the big three firms to focus on the domestic market, home to 210 million people.

"The orientation is certainly on the domestic market because of transport costs," spokesperson Sahat Panggabean said. *Reuters*

THE ENTRANCE to the Dutch-owned Corus steel works, formerly British Steel, is closed in Taibach, on the outskirts of Port Talbot, Wales. The company has announced that it has not reached an agreement with British unions, and that 6,000 workers in their Welsh plants will lose their jobs. AP

Japan to reform, but cautiously

WASHINGTON—Japan's new government will implement the structural reforms its economy needs to galvanize it, but it will not be so aggressive as to shock the economy unduly, according to a Japanese Cabinet minister.

Japanese Economy Minister Heizo Takenaka, visiting Washington one week after being appointed to his current post, said his country's government was well aware that to hurt Japan's economy was to hurt that of the rest of the world.

"Japan has been told it must implement structural reforms and be radical about it," he told a news conference. "But there are also many who worry about whether Japan's economy can take such a great strain in the short run, and that would mean a negative effect on the global economy."

"So we know we have to tread a narrow path," he added.

Takenaka—known as a vocal proponent of Japanese structural reform—was speaking after meeting with members of the White House's Council of Economic Advisers, including chair nominee Glenn Hubbard.

The CEA, he said, had high expectations of the measures that it hoped would be implemented by Japan's week-old government, led by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi for whom economic reform was a key goal. Koizumi, who has proclaimed he will not shrink from this painful task, currently enjoys a record-breaking approval rate of well over 80 percent in Japanese opinion polls.

"We have to carry out economic reforms. It would bring out the resilience in Japan's economy, and change people's perception of it," Takenaka said in speaking of the world's second-biggest economy, which for a decade has been trying unsuccessfully to propel itself out of the doldrums.

A key issue for the government, Takenaka said, would be helping banks and other financial institutions purge their bad loans, something which has plagued Japan's financial industry for a decade and is the legacy of the country's asset bubble which burst in the early 1990s.

While Koizumi's government has endorsed the previous administration's plans to write off bad bank loans within two to three years, details of any such program remain vague.

But it had to be done because of the huge consequences for the economy, Takenaka said, adding that it would make quite a difference to the Japan's potential growth rate—defined at the rate at which an economy can grow without generating inflationary pressure.

"If the bad loan situation remains the way it is today, it (Japan's potential growth rate) would be about 0.5 percent. If such loans were removed from balance sheets, it would be about 2.5 percent," he said. *Reuters*

G8 works out 'digital divide' action plan

TOKYO—Eight of the world's leading countries have worked out an action plan to help narrow the so-called digital divide between industrial and developing nations, according to a leading business daily.

The plan called for setting up an international organization by next January to assist developing countries in equipping themselves with information technology expertise, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun said.

It would be presented to the Group of Eight summit in July and be reflected in agreements by leaders from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States, the daily said.

The task force would send missions to developing countries for up to six months to advise them on ways to build up IT infrastructure, the report said. *AFP*

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Fed's McDonough sees strains from slowdown

NEW YORK—Federal Reserve Bank of New York President William McDonough said on Thursday the international financial system is showing some signs of strain from a slowdown in global growth.

McDonough, in remarks prepared for delivery to a banking group in Frankfurt, Germany, said there is no broad agreement on how to handle international financial crises.

"During the latter part of the 1990s, the international financial system had endured perhaps its greatest stress in the post-war period, and currently we again are seeing signs of strain associated with the global slowdown in growth," McDonough said in a text of his speech released in advance.

The New York Fed chief did not comment further on the global economy or discuss the US economy in the speech, which focused on global financial stability. McDonough is also chairman of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision that recently completed a new accord on bank capital standards.

There is a broad consensus on the need to strengthen financial institutions at the national and international levels in order to create more crisis-resistant economies, McDonough said. But there is no comparable degree of consensus on how to best handle international financial crises once they do erupt.

"In particular, there is unease that the current approach to crisis management that has evolved out of the experiences in Mexico and Asia, notwithstanding its successes in some cases, entails solutions that are potentially too costly," he said.

Critics feel the solutions entailed repeated reliance on large-scale support packages, introduced adverse incentives or moral hazard, and were in themselves a source of uncertainty and potential instability, McDonough added.

He advocated a flexible case-by-case approach to crisis management, adding that regulators should strive for minimalist intervention.

The role of regulators is not to limit banks' opportunities for growth and profit. "At the same time, if we encourage responsible behavior, we must not create the illusion that we will rescue every institution that does not succeed," he said. *Reuters*

JOBS DATA DUE

IMF sees US Fed rate cut May 15

WASHINGTON—The IMF's chief economist said on Thursday the US Federal Reserve will likely cut short-term interest rates at its mid-May policy-setting meeting, with the size of the move dependent on jobs data due out on Friday.

"They will probably cut (interest rates by) 25 basis points, provided the evidence confirms that the US economy remains relatively sluggish," the International Monetary Fund's Michael Mussa said at a round-table discussion of economic prospects.

Mussa said April's employment report would be the key determinant in the Fed's decision, noting that if the report showed a "substantial drop in employment" then the powerful central bank might consider a half-percentage-point cut in interest rates at the May 15 meeting.

Economists polled by Reuters expect the employment report to show the US economy added a paltry 5,000 non-farm jobs in April, with the unemployment rate ticking up to 4.4 percent from 4.3 percent. Mussa said he expects the unemployment rate to gradually rise to 5 percent as the US slowdown continues.

Since the start of the year, the Fed has cut interest rates by two percentage points in an effort to boost the flagging US economy. With inflation pressures broadly contained, the employment report is one of the most important pieces of data the Fed uses when considering its monetary policy actions.

Last month the IMF forecast US growth would slow to just 1.5 percent this year before rebounding with better growth next year. But the pace of the US slowdown was thrown into question last Friday when economic growth figures for the first three months of the year showed the world's richest economy expanding by 2 percent on an annual basis, nearly double what most economists had expected.

Mussa said that data "looked a little strange" and viewed the number as "not entirely reliable," saying he would wait for more data to get a better picture of the economy.

Mussa also reiterated that he believes the European Central Bank should cut interest rates to bolster growth prospects there.

"I believe that for the past month or so the balance of considerations has been such as to argue in favor of an initial step of easing and I think it's likely a further step would be appropriate later this year," Mussa said.

"We do think the European Central Bank should ease and expect they will ease by 50 basis points or so in the course of this year," he said. *Reuters*

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MANILA BANKERS LIFE
INSURANCE CORPORATION

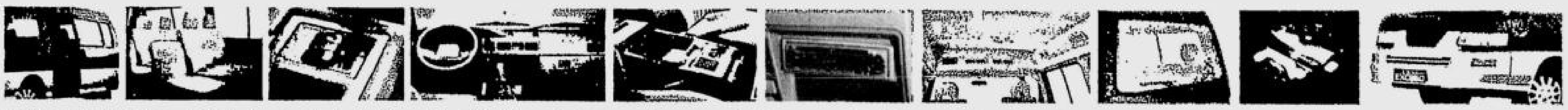
NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS MEETING

Notice is hereby given to stockholders of **MANILA BANKERS LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION** that the annual meeting of stockholders will be held on May 22, 2001 at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon at its principal office at 10F TMBC Building 6772 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, to transact such business as may be properly brought before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The close of business on May 7, 2001 has been fixed as the record date for determining stockholders entitled to vote at this meeting or any adjournment thereof.

May 3, 2001. Makati City.

CLARENCE D. GUERRERO
Corporate Secretary



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NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publication, if you are:

	NAME OF BENEFICIARY	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEMISE
1.	PRECILA CAMUNGOL	Unknown	EDGARDO ALCAIRO SS# 03-3366276-2	February 14, 2001
2.	EVA ALTEJOS	Sampaloc, Manila	RODOLFO ALTEJOS SS# 03-0618232-9	February 28, 2001
3.	ROBERTO BANGCAYO	Unknown	ISIDRO BANGCAYO SS# 07-0196242-1	March 3, 1988
4.	TERESITA CALITES MARY ANN & CLAUDIO CALITES JR.	2645 Bonifacio St. Bangkal, Makati City	CLAUDIO B. CALITES SS# 03-3802447-3	February 23, 2001
5.	MERCEDITA CASTILLO	509-I Sierra Madre St. Mandaluyong City	VIVENCIO CASTILLO SS# 03-0820632-8	December 29, 2000
6.	ORZON CENTINA	Unknown	TEODERICO CENTINA SS# 07-0687722-3	March 5, 2000
7.	ELISA ELESORIO	C40 Sumulong Hi-way Antipolo, Rizal	QUINTIN ELESORIO SS# 03-5666539-3	January 4, 2001
8.	CRISANTO FERNANDEZ	Unknown	EFIGENIA FERNANDEZ SS# 07-0443141-2	November 7, 1999
9.	JULIETA GALICHA JEANIFE GALICHA	San Juan, Rizal	ERNESTO M. GALICHA SS# 03-0384479-8	February 24, 1998
10.	VILMA DC VALLE	Malbang, Pantabangan Nueva Ecija	LEONARDO GALVEZ SS# 33-4432564-2	November 21, 2000
11.	FE LASIN GESMUNDO MAGDALENA GESMUNDO RHODORA GESMUNDO	Bicol Region	DANILO GESMUNDO SS# 04-0233876-5	November 29, 1999
12.	JOSE JOB SR.	Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte	SANNY G. JOB SS# 09-0538139-9	April 12, 1999
13.	ELVIE MACALISANG	Unknown	ROEL YUAG MACALISANG SS# 08-0957730-7	October 9, 2000
14.	SILVESTRE MALLO	Mariveles, Bataan	SUSAN MALLO SS# 02-0366469-6	January 21, 2001
15.	KATHERINE MOYA KRISTOPHER MOYA KENNEDY MOYA	2330 Calderon St. Sta. Ana, Manila	EMMANUEL MOYA SS# 03-3679989-4	October 22, 2000
16.	RESURRECION NUNEZ	59 Hillcrest Circle, Pasig City	VICENTE V. NUNEZ JR. SS# 03-2474956-8	September 7, 2000
17.	ELMA M. PEDELINO	Las Navas, Northern Samar	WILFREDO PEDELINO SS# 03-2290680-8	January 31, 2001
18.	ARCOLANA RAGAS	Vito Cruz Ext. San Andres Bukid, Mla.	FELIX RAGAS SS# 03-3998996-0	January 16, 2001
19.	VERONICA NARCISO	Unknown	FELIPE T. SALAS SS# 03-3000979-7	Not Indicated
20.	ROSARIO M. SITCHON	Unknown	CARLITO SITCHON SS# 03-1873298-9	Not Indicated
21.	RIZALINA ABELLA	Karuhatan, Valenzuela Metro Manila	BUENAVENTURA VENZON SS# 03-1129382-3	August 30, 1993
	SIONY ALFAJARO	Apollo, Orani, Bataan		

(PDI--May 5, 2001)

Philippine Economic Zone Authority

PEZA

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
Roxas Boulevard cor. San Luis St.
Pasay City, Philippines

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **KSS PHILIPPINES, INC. (KPI)** with plant site at the New Cebu Township One - Special Economic Zone (NCTO-SEZ) has filed with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) an application for **PIONEER STATUS** to be granted to its production of SMD (Surface Mount Device) Quartz Crystal based on newness of product and technology, which if approved, will entitle the company to six (6) years of Income Tax Holiday. Said application has been officially accepted and is under process in this office.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file with the PEZA his/her objections in writing and under oath, within fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication.

Please direct your position papers/comments to the Enterprise Regulations Department of PEZA (Tel. Nos. **510-2947** and **551-3457**; and telefax **551-3456**).

(Sgd.) **LILIA B. DE LIMA**
Director General

(PDI - May 5 2001)

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Mondex Card at Kimchi Restaurant

E-COMMERCE comes to the posh Shangri-La Plaza Mall via the Mondex Card, the country's newest electronic cash card. Shoppers can now use Mondex Card in any of the participating establishments inside the mall, such as Kimchi restaurant, which offers authentic Korean specialty dishes, located at the food court level.

Customers will just have to present their Mondex Card to the counter to pay. Interested applicants can just walk into the Mondex Card top-up stations located at the food court level and Metrolink fifth floor level or any Mondex Card sales booth, specify and pay for the value to be stored inside the Mondex microchip. Then they can enjoy a new lifestyle of convenience, security and enhanced customer loyalty programs, and expect more features and benefits to come in the near future. Photo shows Erlinda Ramirez, assistant general manager of Kimchi, holding a Mondex Card.

Oxford Gin party

THE EXCITEMENT of the bartending exhibition comes to the provinces as Oxford London Dry Gin and Cordial Lime Juice announces a unique, bar-hopping party theme dubbed "Flare, Dare and Bare."

"Flare, Dare and Bare" will showcase a trio of the country's flamboyant bartenders composed of one male and two females. "Flare, Dare and Bare" will happen in Boracay on May 4 and 5; Iloilo on May 11 and 12; Bacolod on May 18 and 19; Cebu on May 25 and 26; Davao on June 1 and 2; and Cagayan de Oro on June 8 and 9.

RRC chair

PUNO

Nestlé Philippines, Inc. media vice president Sandra Puno was recently elected as chair of the board of the Radio Research Council (RRC) for the year 2001. The RRC is a non-stock, non-profit, tri-partite organization whose members include advertisers (PANA), advertising agencies (4A), and radio networks (KBP).

INQUIRER
TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Weight and see

Q. Is it true that a pound of feathers is heavier than a pound of gold?

A. Yes, but only because there are two systems for measuring weight. One is the avoirdupois pound, which contains 16 ounces. The other is the troy-weight pound, which contains only 12 ounces. Feathers, and most other large and course commodities, are measured by the avoirdupois system. Gold and other precious metals and stones are measured by the troy system. Thus, a pound of feathers actually weighs four ounces more than a pound of gold.

For the Record. To produce 1 troy ounce of gold (about 1/15 pound), nearly 2 1/2 tons of rock must be processed. In fact, all of the gold mined in recorded world history could fit into a cube with 53-foot sides. And let it be added that pure 24-karat gold is so soft that it must be mixed with another metal to make it durable enough for jewelry. It turns reddish when mixed with copper, bluish when mixed with iron, and it forms white gold when nickel is added.

What's the Difference? **Enquire** and **Inquire.** Both spellings are acceptable, although *inquire* is more widely used. Similarly, the noun *inquiry* is preferable to *enquiry. Enquire (enquiry)* is sometimes used for the act of questioning, whereas *inquire (inquiry)* refers to a more detailed or prolonged questioning, an investigation.

WORD WATCH

Usyoso : from the Spanish *ocioso,* 'idleness, leisure; distraction, pastime.'

PDI – May 5, 2001

DigitelOne is Internet backbone of Sykes

JUST recently, DigitelOne has been engaged to service the Internet communications backbone requirements of Sykes Enterprises Inc. In the agreement signed between Brian M. Go, managing director of DigitelOne, and Frederick King, information services and technology manager of Sykes Enterprises Inc., DigitelOne shall provide a private leased line with Internet access to Sykes to meet its expanding subscriber requirements and computer-related outsourcing services in the Philippines.

With a formidable 512kbps Bandwidth communication protocol from DigitelOne, Sykes will be enabled to "live up to our standard of top quality and excellent customer relationship," says Sykes Enterprises general manager Vickie Lim.

Chosen for its quality of services and investment benefits, Lim says "we have found a sound partner in DigitelOne, who will see us through our expansion in delivering to our subscribers multimedia, multilingual and multiclient information services such as phone support, e-mail support, chat support and payment processing."

Lim added Sykes will offer its subscribers impressive business portfolios that include third party hardware and software technical support, help-desk services, systems consulting, systems integration, e-commerce solutions, diagnostic software and over 20 years of business experience. Sykes opened its doors in 1977 in Tampa, Florida, which now serves as their worldwide headquarters.

DigitelOne's datacom, voice and Internet services, on the other hand boast of a heritage borne of a partnership between blue-chip JG Summit Holdings, Inc. and Telia AB of Sweden. DigitelOne empowers businesses by providing them that vital link to tap into opportunities that have been dramatically increasing in a rapidly growing information technology-driven market. With a network that spans 250 of Luzon's biggest cities and smallest towns, penetrating customers beyond the reach of the competition of will have never been more available and ever possible.

Visit www.digitelone.com now.

Eurocampus hosts prestigious games

TOWARDS the end of 1999, the German and French Schools, also known as the Eurocampus, conceptualized upgrading its sports facilities. A sponsor brochure with all details of the project was created. This involved hours of planning and negotiation before 100 potential sponsors could be approached in February 2000.

The construction of the running track, long jump track and pit, basketball, shot-put, leveling of the soccer field and other outdoor sports went on full blast by July 10, 2000. Mondo surface was used for all of outdoor flooring, exactly the same surface used in the Sydney Olympics. A specialist from Italy who installed the surface in the Eurocampus also installed the Sydney surfaces.

The inaugural ceremony for the sports field was successfully held last March 2. Participating athletes for this sportsfest were from the British, French and German schools. Immaculate Heart of Mary School from Parañaque was invited for a friendly girls and boys basketball competition.

On June 7-11, 2001, the Eurocampus Manila will host the prestigious South East Asian Games of German Schools. Students and their coaches will fly in from Singapore, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok to compete in athletics, swimming, soccer and basketball.

This project has been made possible with the relentless efforts of the people involved and the generous support of sponsors: Air Liquide, Alstom, Bayfresh Philippines, BNP Paribas, Croma Medic, CS Garments, Danzas Intercontinental, Degrémont, Edward Keller (Phils.) Inc., Etsi Technologies, Inc., Glasi Hergiswil, Knoll Regional HQ Philippines Inc., Lufthansa German Airlines, Lyonnaise des Eaux, Multiplast Corp., Octopus Divers in Villa Sabang, Osram Philippines Ltd. Corp., Pamatec, The Philips Group of Companies in the Philippines, PLDT, Royal Cargo Corp., Rudolf Lietz, Schering Philippine Corp., Sarnafil, Siemens, Societe General de Surveillance S.A., Supply Oilfield Services, Inc., Swissair Transport Co., Ltd., and TÜV Rheinland Phils. Ltd.

People, Events & Products

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Richwell shows off stuff kids dream of in summer trade show

MATCHBOX. Hotwheels. Barbie. Fisher Price. These names ring a bell in all of us, whether we're 5 or 50. One time or another in our lives, Matchboxes caught our fancy. Long before the mini-4WD craze gripped the nation, we were racing our Matchbox or Hotwheels die-cast cars, and our kid sisters were talking to and dressing up their Barbies. We were learning to interact—without knowing it—from our Fisher Price Toys.

The toys that we enjoyed yesterday are still the toys of our kids today. Toys that Richwell Trading Corporation brings to millions of Filipino children continue to elicit joy and inspire learning and human interaction. That, Richwell Trading people believe, is the essence of children's toys and accessories. Toys can be fun and can become an instrument for learning.

This was the highlight of this year's Summer Tradeshow March 19-23 at the Richwell headquarters at 25 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. An entire floor converted into a product showroom showcased all of Richwell's world-renowned brands as well as new releases from Europlay Distributors.

Customers who visited Richwell during the five-day trade show viewed such classics as Matchbox playsets, Hotwheels die-cast cars, Barbie models in Western and Filipiniana get-ups, cleverly designed Fisher Price toys, and even Sesame Street toys.

Maye T. Yao, Richwell marketing manager, says the trade show was a way to showcase all of Richwell's traditional and new merchandise to visitors all over the Philippines. "Our sales team got a chance to catch up with our customers."

The summer trade show was also the most opportune occasion to launch Richwell's new merchandise. "This year we are launching the School Cool Barbie which comes in an actual usable backpack for little girls." The cool, trendy fashion and matching accessories, Maye says, would "inspire girls to excel and have fun in their school work this year."

New releases from Barbie also include Barbie electronics, (Barbie Online Laptops and Mini Boom Box), strollers, and new fashion lines.

For the boys, Richwell has released new playsets from Hotwheels and Matchbox. "The assorted Hotwheels Track System will surely make the kids race their die-cast cars race to the extreme," Maye observes.

Richwell and GMA Foundation treat leukemia victims to a day of fun at the Richwell showroom. Joanna Yap (third from left), PR manager of GMA Foundation, Thom Dig (fourth from right), sales manager of Chicco, and Benz Jandoc (right), Richwell senior brand manager, accompany the children.

Finally, Richwell introduced its line of infant and preschool toys and child care products from known brands such as Pigeon, Fisher Price, Sesame Street toys and Shelcore. Particularly interesting, Maye says, is the Fisher Price Sparkling Symphony toy which plays classical music.

"Classical music has been proven to aid in a child's development," she adds.

Though the next trade show is still under wraps, Maye reveals that every trade show Richwell conducts expands in scope and significance. "Summer trade fairs have been an annual event for our customers. This is a venue to showcase our new products and new lines for the season. However, for each succeeding trade show, we have widened the activities."

She cites Richwell's holiday press conference last Christmas, which gave a glimpse of the Barbie (?) fashion show. On March 26, Richwell held a thanksgiving day for 18 children from the ABS-CBN Foundation's Bantay Bata Children's Home.

Richwell Trading Corpo
WELCOME
GMA Foundation
CH 23, 200
Richwell and GMA Foundation recently held an outreach program for leukemic children. At the formal meeting for the project is the chair of GMA Foundation Carmen Jimenez-Ong (second from left), Richwell VP for merchandise Liza Yao Bate (left), Richwell VP for marketing Myrna Yao (second from right), and Richwell Trading president Alberto S. Yao (right)

In a bigger picture, this is our way of continuously asserting the company's conviction to provide the best toys for Filipino children at reasonable prices," Maye stresses.

She adds, "Richwell Trading Corp. has always supported various charities specially geared towards child care and development."

Richwell's "Vtech Adopt-a-School" project is ongoing and open for lower schools interested in having Vtech units in their school libraries.

"We would really want to do more for the community and tie up with charities that share the same vision as we do because we know we cannot do it alone."

Richwell Trading Corporation is the exclusive distributor of world-recognized toys and children's accessories and has recently been awarded sole franchisee of Philippine Basketball Association shoes.

NEW PR BOOK
Public Relations counselor Lucas E. Santiago, author of '21st Century Public Relations (Perspectives in Education)', charter president of the Philippine Association of Public Relations Counselors, Inc. (APRC), and who is also with the De La Salle University-Manila faculty, donated copies of his book to the DLSU Library. Shown above is DLSU Library director Perla T. Garcia receiving copies from Santiago. The book is now available at National Book Store.

people ng people.
SM FOUNDATION CMMA AWARD SPONSORSHIP
Felicidad Sy (second from left) turns over the SM Foundation's contribution to the first Catholic Mass Media Awards Fair which will be held at the SM Megamall. The three-day activity includes an exhibit, film showings and lecture forums. Also shown in photo are (from left) SM Foundation executive director Dr. Lydia Echauz, CMMA executive director Rev. Fr. Joselito Jopson, vice chair Antonio Henson and Secretariat head Celia Goduco.

HOSPITAL DONATION
Representing his brother, Dr. Lucio Tan, Mariano Tanenglian (right) – director and treasurer of the Tan Yan Kee Foundation, Inc.--hands over a P1-million check donation to Drs. Ma. Alicia Lim (center) and Lillian Villafuerte (left), Medical Center chief and chair of the Department of Dermatology, respectively, of the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center (JRRMMC). The Tan Yan Kee Foundation's donation will be used for the establishment of an immunohistochemistry unit at the JRRMMC to help thousands of indigent patients. The hospital donation is part of a series of activities in line with the Foundation's 15th anniversary celebration.

ANGONO JAYCEES OPERATION 'MOD'
The Angono "Ace" Jaycees held recently Operation MOD (Medical, Optical and Dental Mission) at Nieves Hills, Angono, Rizal. More than 400 indigent patients were afforded free check-up, medicines, tooth extraction and filling, ss and eye check-up. Photo shows LOM president JC Cyrus Sualog d JC [illegible] Lar Mendiola assisting the patients and doctors.

BITS Clips

Center for Pop's summer lessons

THE CENTER for Pop Music Philippines announces the opening of its summer voice and stage lessons for singing enthusiasts, hobbyists, amateurs, and future singing stars. The 18-session training program called "Starborne" aims to develop voice quality, performance, and overcome shyness on stage. Butch Albarracin, founder and president, has helped develop today's singing stars such as Roselle Nava, Dessa, Geneva Cruz, Ima Castro, and even four "Kims" for Miss Saigon. Inquiries may be coursed through the Center's head office at 73 Ermin Garcia Street, Cubao, Quezon City, with telephone numbers 727-5293 or 721-0714 or 411-7310.

Food and beverage expo at Robinsons Manila

PHILTRADE Exhibits hosts the food and beverage fair on May 6-10 at the Padre Faura Atrium of the Robinsons Manila. Featured products for exhibit and sale are wines, beer, juices, hams, and other local and imported delicatessen. Free food and wine tasting are also available. Exhibit is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Call 820-7879, 820-1570, or page 15816328592 for details.

UPLB courses in forestry

THE TRAINING Center for Tropical Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability (TREES), UPLB is offering summer courses on "Project Management in Forestry and Environment" (May 7-11), "Tree Surgery" (May 18), and Forestry for Non-Foresters (May 28-30). All courses will be held in Los Baños, Laguna, away from the heat and the pollution of the metropolis. For more information, call (049) 536-2736, 536-2110, or 536-2268, or e-mail trees@laguna.net.

Mapua EE homecoming

The Mapua Institute of Technology-Electrical Engineering Alumni Association (MIT-EEAA) will hold its fourth annual homecoming and reunion on the theme "Balik Mapua 2001" today, May 5 at the rooftop of West Building, Mapua Campus, Intramuros, Manila. Homecoming activities start 7 a.m. For inquiries, call Connie at 895-5652 or Elaine at 939-5431.

Extreme sports clinic for enthusiasts

THE PHILIPS X-rage sports clinic is being held May 4, 5 and 6 at the Don Bosco Gym. The clinic is open to all enthusiasts of skateboarding, BMX riding, and inline skating. The BMX event happened Friday, May 4. Skateboarding is slated today, while inline skating is scheduled May 6. The Philips X-rage Sports Clinic is organized by Philips Consumer Electronics, and is a prelude to the main event on May 18, 19 and 20 at the Summer Camp, Fort Bonifacio Global City.

Foodservers training set

BE a good foodserver in just five days! A Basic Foodservers Training has been set by ProActive Center for Training (PACT) on May 7-11, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Triple V Express, second level bridgeway of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City. For inquiries, call 823-4947, cell no. 0919-5500601, or e-mail pactserv@info.com.ph. Visit PACT's website at www.info.com.ph/~pactserv.

TLRC summer specials on livelihood courses

ALL Technology and Livelihood Resource Center business and livelihood training courses will be offered at 30-percent discount from May 1 to 31. Free lunch and flowing coffee will be provided participants to the training courses. Those who have attended more than three TLRC courses will have their fifth course at 50-percent discount. For more information, call the TLRC Training and Information Services Group at 633-5910, 633-5709, and 633-6728.

St. Peregrine Laziosi feast day

BARANGAY Tunasan in Muntinlupa City celebrated the feast of St. Peregrine May 1. St. Peregrine Laziosi is the patron saint of those who suffer from cancer and other dread diseases. His relic is enshrined in the St. Peregrine Laziosi Shrine in Barangay Tunasan. The high mass on the feast day was celebrated by Bishop Jesse Mercado. Every Sunday, there is a healing mass at 2:30 p.m. To go to the shrine, exit at Susana Heights and go to the direction of San Pedro. The shrine is just after the Pepsi Cola Plant and Parkhomes Subdivision on the right side of the National Highway.

Citibank has new domestic toll-free number

CITIBANK has a new domestic toll-free number for its 24-hour CitiPhone. Clients calling within the Philippines but outside of Metro Manila and Metro Cebu should dial 1-800-10-995-9999.

With Citiphone, clients can enjoy the convenience of world-class banking with Citibank, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call CitiPhone to inquire on bank transactions and credit card balances or to report a lost or stolen card. Customers may use the automated self-service option or choose to talk to a CitiPhone officer.

For Metro Manila residents, call 995-9999 to access Citiphone and in Metro Cebu, call 234-9999. When in the United States or in Canada, call CitiPhone at 1-800-8-MANILA.

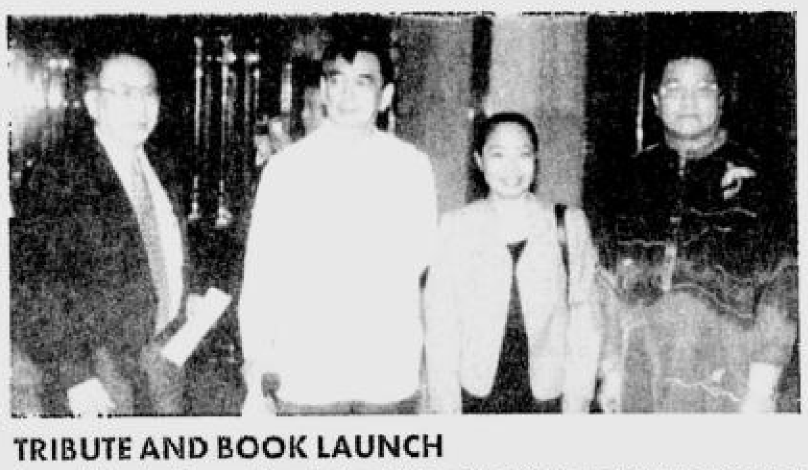
UP Alumni Council to focus on IT

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines Alumni Council will hold its annual meeting at the Ang Bahay ng Alumni, Magsaysay Avenue, UP Diliman, Quezon City on Friday, June 15 from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. with the homecoming theme: "IT and the University."

Three papers will be presented: "IT and social, cultural and ethical considerations," "Achieving world-class IT capability in the university," and "IT and education."

UP Alumni Council members are enjoined to attend this annual meeting. The council is composed of alumni who are members of the UPAA Board of Directors, all past presidents of the Alumni Association, the distinguished alumni, the officers of the different alumni chapters, and the past and present members of the Board of Regents. It is also composed of the UP president, vice presidents, university secretary, chancellors, vice chancellors, registrar, the deans and directors of the different colleges, schools, and institutes, the director of the UP Office of Alumni Relations and others who may be designated by resolution of the board of directors.

Confirm your attendance on or before June 1 with the UPAA Secretariat at 929-3327/920-6875/920-6871 or 920-6868 or the UP Office of Alumni Relations at 929-8226 or 920-5301 local 4930.


TRIBUTE AND BOOK LAUNCH
Isagani Yambot (second from left) publisher of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and keynote speaker is being flanked by PDI columnist Jimmy Licaoco; Imee Alcantara, PDI corporate planning head; and Dr. Josef de Ubaldo, DSC., author of the book 'Perspectives on National Health: An Anthology of Holistic Medicine.'

ZONTA CLUB HEALTH MISSION
The Zonta Club of Greater Rizal II, led by its president, Lydia Tan, recently conducted a medical, dental and optical mission at the Philippine Orthopedic Hospital. The club seeks to improve the health of poor members of the community by conducting periodic free medical and eye consultation and tooth extraction and giving medicine and reading glasses.

CERVICAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

May 7 – Press Conference
Office of the Secretary
Department of Health
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
(A health policy on the acetic acid wash will be possibly signed by the Secretary)
May 7 to 14 - Exhibits at the Robinson's Galleria
May 13 - Lecture on Cervical Cancer at Hidalgo Room, Galleria Suites to all shopmallers
May 6, 13, 26 and 27 – Philam Life Clinics offering acetic acid wash Pap smear
May 1to 30 – Month Round tri media campaign
Month Round Lectures of Cancer in Women in offices, schools and organizations

5th Dr. Jose Y. Fores Memorial Lecture
Castle Peak Hotel, Cebu City
May 28, 2001 (Simultaneous Session)
8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Training on the Cervical Cancer Screening Software Registry and the Hospital Tumor Registry
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. – The Cervical Cancer Screening Research Project Results and Health Policy
– Acetic Acid Wash Visualization Workshop and Demonstration on Pelvic Models

16th ASIA PACIFIC CANCER CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 18-21, 2001

Philippine International Convention Center
Manila, Philippines

Secretariat
Philippine Cancer Society
310 San Rafael St., San Miguel Manila
Tel. No.: (632) 7333-485
Telefax: (632) 7352707
Email Address: 16apcc@pcsi.com.ph
Website: www.philcancer.org

PHILIPPINE CANCER SOCIETY-DOH PARTNERSHIP

Cervical Cancer Awareness Month launched

"BUT I've had only one partner in bed ever since." "I've never done IT in my whole life"... "I have never been sick of any sexually transmitted disease." These are typical statements tinged with resistance whenever women have to face the possibility of gynecological examinations.

In a conservative society where women's diseases are frowned upon, it is understandable why women are forced to see the "ob-gyne" only on two occasions. One occasion for the visit to the "ob-gyne" is on suspicion of pregnancy. The other occasion is when a woman, not necessarily pregnant, has unusual changes in her body, which alarm her. Otherwise, Filipino women who are mainly conservative by nature would prefer to keep what they could endure to themselves. "This is the attitude prevailing among the Filipino female population which leads to what are otherwise preventable deaths," explains Dr. Antonio H. Villalon of the Philippine Cancer Society, Incorporated (PCSI).

The DOH and the PCSI spearheaded this year's National Cancer Consciousness Campaign (NCC) with a series of special events. Conducted on a year-round basis, the events are part of an intensive educational and information campaign to upgrade awareness levels of health in Filipinos. May is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. As a special feature to coincide with Mother's Day on May 13, 2001. Sunday, the DOH and the PCSI in partnership with Robinson's Galleria, Philamlife Foundation and media friends have especially organized a month-long calendar of activities. The kick-off affair will be a mall exhibit to open on May 7 lasting up to May 14 at the Galleria along Edsa. May 13 will be highlighted by a medical lecture by Dr. Rommel Duenas from 1 to 5 p.m. at the 4th floor, Hidalgo Room of the Galleria Suites.

Free consultations at the Philam Care Clinics in Metro Manila have also been scheduled.

Cervical cancer specialists will discuss different topics of interest in TV and radio shows.

"Cervical cancer is the second leading cause of death among Filipino women after breast cancer," shares Dr. Villalon. "It should not be the case if only women between 20 and 70 years of age would consult with a gynecologist regularly and get a pap smear," adds Dr. Villalon. "More than anybody, those who should get a pap smear or pap test are women who have increased chances of acquiring cancer because of the so-called risk factors," he cautions. The factors that put certain women at higher risk for cervical cancer are explained in detail at PCSI exhibits and TV and radio programs.

Philam Foundation – Renders free clinic in support of Cervical Cancer Month

PHILAM Foundation, the social development arm of the Philam Group of Companies in cooperation with Philam Care Health Systems Inc. and Philippine Cancer Society, will render free consultation and diagnoses for cervical cancer during the month of May. This projects is in line with the Foundation's thrust of health promotion and its desire to inform the public that regular check-up and early detection are important measures in cancer prevention and treatment.

Philam Foundation has lined up similar projects for the rest of cancer months in 2001 for prostate, lunch, breast and liver. For cervical cancer screening the free clinic will use "acetic acid wash" as its protocol. This method will be approved by the DOH as an accurate and cost-effective method to determine problems with the cervix aside from the usual pap smear.

The schedule of free consultations at the following Philam Care clinics in Metro Manila are:

May 6, 2001 – Sunday 8 a.m. to 12 noon (Philam Care – Las Piñas, 3F Grace Bldg., 777 Alabang-Zapote Road, 871-4236

May 20, 2001 – Sunday 8 a.m. to 12 noon (Philam Care – Ortigas, Unit 1212 Medical Plaza Ortigas, San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Center, 633-1810

May 27, 2001 – Sunday 8 a.m. to 12 noon (Philam Care – Quezon City, Rm 208 Dona Anita Bldg., 284 E. Rodriguez Ave., Q.C.

For more information please call the Cancer Hotline at 734-2131

Facts about cervical cancer

IN THE PHILIPPINES, cervix cancer is the second most important cancer in women (second to breast cancer) and ranks fourth for both sexes taken together. The cervix cancer incidence rate remains unchecked (22 per 100,000 women) from 1980 – 1995, with 44 to overall 5-year survival rate or about 10 per 100,000 women dying from the disease over 5 years.

Cervix cancer is preventable. Improvements in cancer care can be achieved only through earlier detection. However, Filipino women often present themselves at an advanced stage where survival is low. Filipino women should give themselves a birthday gift every year by visiting their doctors for a complete check-up including cervical examination whether they are in good health or otherwise.

In the Philippines, like in other countries, cervical cancer, if a late sequel of infection with certain types of human papilloma virus. Likely, co-factors are highly-parity, smoking and unidentified factor linked to low socio-economic status. Cervical examination and screening for cervix diseases offer a strong protection.

If every Filipino women 22-55 years old submit themselves for cervical examination/check-up even once in their lifetime or even better every 5 years, then they would expect 84 percent protection from cervix cancer.

The DOH and The PCSI and The DILG therefore invite all Filipino women 25-65 years old to attend to their health and welfare specifically by undergoing cervix check-up at least every 5 years, and also breast check-up every year.

The DOH in collaboration with DILG – health care services (Hospitals to Municipal health units) nationwide offer women's health clinics/services.

The Nationwide Cervix Cancer 1st Screening Method of choice in government health services is acetic wash visualization of the cervix.

All women found to have cervix lesions by Acetic Acid Wash will undergo further gynecological colposcopy examination (in hospitals with this service). Papsmear or acetic acid guided direct biopsy of the cervix can be done (in hospitals without colposcopy).

GREETINGS TO

THE PHILIPPINE CANCER SOCIETY

IN OBSERVANCE OF THE

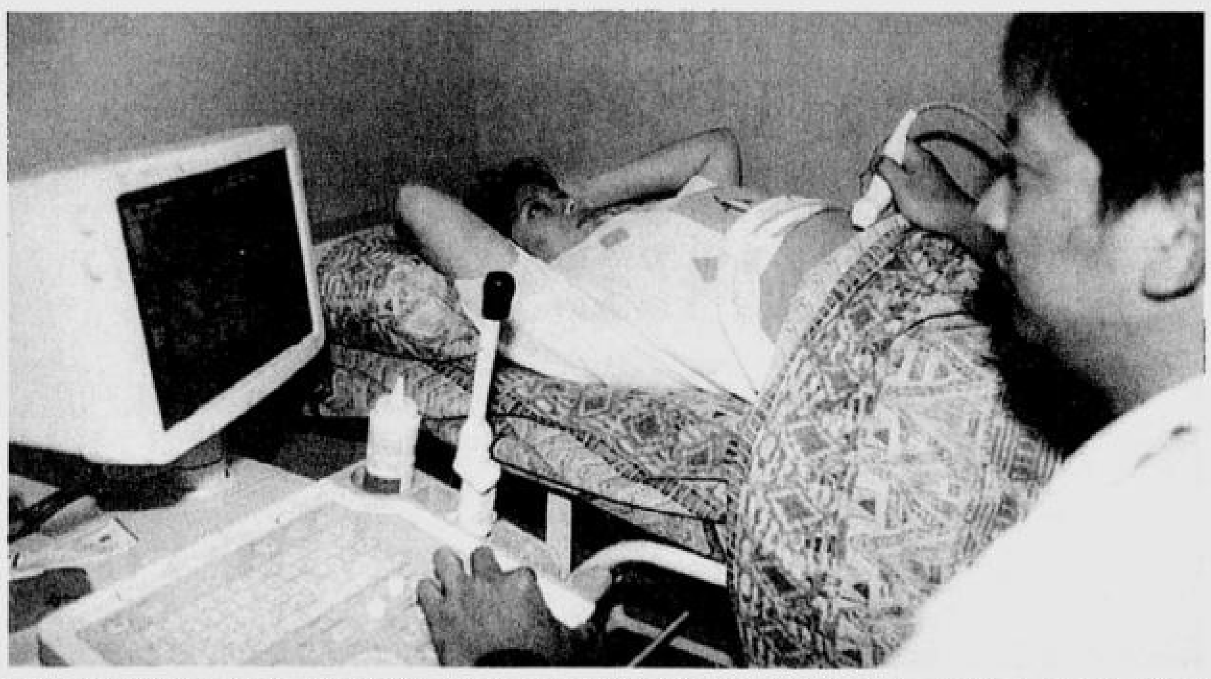
"CERVICAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH"!

FROM:

MMC
MAKATI MEDICAL CENTER
ISO 9002/EN46002 CERTIFIED

No.2 Amorsolo corner De La Rosa St., Makati Metro Manila
Telephone No. 815-9911 • 892-5544
Fax. No. 819-5423 Area Code (632)
P.O. Box Commercial Center Makati, Metro Manila

Health care with a heart



AN ULTRASOUND at the FriendlyCare clinic costs P300, which is 40 percent cheaper than what is offered elsewhere.

HEALTH care in the Philippines does not come cheap. Long accustomed to poor, inadequate facilities and the shabby treatment received from government and private medical institutions, most Filipinos have come to equate quality health service with a forbidding price tag.

But there's good news. FriendlyCare, a new name in the medical industry, is bent on revolutionizing the Philippine health sector by providing quality yet affordable health care to low-income-groups through its network of clinics. "We wanted to set ourselves up as a choice for people who are tired of getting poor service from government and private health care providers," says Dr. Juan Perez, the clinic's Hearth Standards director.

The brainchild of former Health Secretary Jaime Galvez-Tan, Friendly Care was founded with the support of several business executives, doctors and philanthropists—among them Oscar Lopez, Andrew Gotianum, Bea Zobel, Lizzie Zobel de Ayala, Margie Moran and Maribel Ongpin—who initially raised a $5-million endowment fund which sustained the clinic's early operations, eventually becoming the foundation's board of trustees.

Affordable

With its yellow façade, glass panels and air-conditioned interiors, FriendlyCare gives the impression of catering to a wealthy few. Yet the "menu" boards up front advertising a P60 urinalysis, chest X-rays at P150 to P200 and consultation fees averaging P120, say otherwise. Even the medicine at Best Care, the clinic's pharmacy, costs 10 percent less than in major drugstores.

"People initially just shrugged and walked away, figuring that we were expensive and not for them," recalls Sussette Barrantes, a branch supervisor. Walk-in customers eventually started coming in droves after they realized that the medical fees were for real. The main clinic on Shaw Boulevard (Mandaluyong City, near Starmall) now gets at least 100 patients a day, serving 150-170 on a good day.

Kind treatment

It is not just the price that keeps the patients coming, but also the kind treatment they get from FriendlyCare staff. "They trent you with respect here, and with dignity. Whoever comes in is treated the same," explains Lydia Bonayog, a barangay health worker in Antipolo who refers friends to the FriendlyCare intermediate clinic in Masinag, Antipolo.

Physicians take to the philosophy of Patch Addams—an American doctor who has become an icon in the medical profession with his unconventional ideas in health care—by donning colorful outfits, rather than traditional white smocks; and by being more cheerful and upbeat.

In good spirits

FriendlyCare policy dictates that the doctors' shifts do not last longer than five hours a day, to keep them in good spirits. Otherwise, "they might become unfriendly, and we would not want that to happen," chuckles Dr. Perez.

FriendlyCare clinics offering dental, family planning, reproductive, maternal, family and obstetrical/gynecological health services, have sprouted all over the metropolis, with branches in Antipolo, Mandaluyong, Lagro, and even in Cebu and Davao. In March, two more clinics have opened in Pasig and San Juan. All seven are connected by a computerized health management information system developed by the Department of Health, which enables doctors to properly update patient information.

FriendlyCare hopes to establish a network of 25 clinics in 10 years. "We'd like to market ourselves as an establishment where Jollibee customers also go," Dr. Perez says of FriendlyCare's comparison to the popular fast-food chain.

The health care group has launched massive consultations and physical examinations for corporations and other large groups to boost its income, in addition to the annual support it gets from the United States Agency for International Development. It intends to be self-sufficient by its eighth year. "We are, in fact, already 40 to 50 percent sustainable," Dr. Perez reports happily.

Not just a flash in the pan, FriendlyCare hopes that its stream of clientele will continue to come in droves and stay, in the same way that their clinics intend to be around for a long time, doing what they do best. That is, to bring compassionate and quality but inexpensive health care to Filipinos.

Power from liquid hydrogen

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

ENERGY sources are often nonrenewable, thus each country tries to discover alternative forms of energy. One of them is liquid hydrogen. Mike delos Angeles [myk0507@yahoo.com] has this query:

First of all, I would like to commend you for your wonderful and educational column every Saturday. I am an avid reader of yours, and I find it very helpful and exciting (Math is an exciting subject, right?).

Secondly, I am a graduate student of the Technological University of the Philippines (TUP) and I am currently taking my MS EE course, majoring in power systems. My problem started when our professor gave us a research paper on contemporary energy and power system breakthroughs. We are a group of three and we decided to take the theme of power and energy resources, and their uses in current technology. We have narrowed our list to three items, namely, nuclear energy, solar energy, and the use of liquid hydrogen to generate power. Unfortunately, I got the last part.

I've read once on liquid hydrogen (a long time ago), and it was already used by power plants to generate power. If my memory serves me right, it started in Los Alamos and was tested for use in transportation in 1970 or 1974, and it was successful. In recent years, liquid hydrogen was used in lieu of the conventional fuels—gas, coal, etc. I think liquid hydrogen is related to cryogenics, but I am not into cryogenics, but power generation.

Can you help me by sending some articles and reference books for this? I have been to the TUP's library but it doesn't have updated archives. Thank you and more power!

I am glad that your professor assigned you topics like these, and I don't think you should consider yourself unfortunate just because you have to research on a little-known topic. What's the use of doing a paper on something you already know?

First, let us recall the properties and composition of hydrogen. It is the first in the periodic table, and consists of the simplest known atoms. Discovered in 1766 by Henry Cavendish, it is the lightest known substance and as early as 1783 it was already used to inflate balloons, despite its flammability. The Hindenberg disaster in 1937 ended this. Hydrogen is one of the components of water gas, sometimes used in gas ranges. Combined with carbon, this element is found in all natural fuels, such as wood, oil and coal.

Secondly, I am not too sure that liquid hydrogen started at Los Alamos—my reference books all say that the Scottish chemist and physicist Sir James Dewar was the first to liquefy hydrogen—as early as 1898! (Dewar was a prolific inventor. He is best known for the Dewar flask—the thermos bottle. In 1891 he invented a method for producing large quantities of liquid oxygen, and a year later, he invented the double-walled flask separated by a vacuum to keep the liquid oxygen cold. With F. A. Abel, Dewar also developed cordite, the first practical smokeless powder.)

However, you are right about liquid hydrogen being used in cryogenics. In fact, according to many physics articles, the most important applications of liquid hydrogen are in two fields: low-temperature studies (cryogenics) and superconductivity (because its melting point is only a few degrees above absolute zero). Liquid hydrogen is also used in bubble chambers to photograph the tracks left by nuclear particles, mainly for identification purposes.

Thirdly, what about power generation? In terms of fuel, large quantities of liquid hydrogen have been used in space research both as a fuel for generating electric power in fuel cells and as a rocket fuel with oxygen or fluorine as the oxidizer. Actually, pure liquid hydrogen is rarely used, because its extremely low boiling point makes it difficult to produce and store. Another shortcoming is its bulkiness, because it is the lightest known liquid. Thus, a mixture of liquid and solid hydrogen (forming a slush) is used instead. This mixture has a lower temperature, higher density and greater stability than the pure liquid form.

What about earthly uses? The debate on the applicability of liquid hydrogen is still ongoing. According to chemist J. Alistair Kerr's article on "Hydrogen" for the Lexicon Universal Encyclopedia, "In the quest for new and improved energy sources and uses, interest has been aroused in employing hydrogen as an energy store. It has been suggested that various fuels could be converted to electricity, which would be used to electrolyze water to produce hydrogen. The hydrogen would be stored as a liquid and subsequently combusted to return the stored energy when needed."

Researcher Ralph E. Lapp is also cautiously optimistic. In his article on "Energy Supply" for The World Book Encyclopedia, he writes, "Hydrogen could someday replace both gas and oil as a fuel. It burns easily, giving off huge amounts of heat and one harmless byproduct, water. Chilled to liquid form, hydrogen could flow through pipelines. It might serve as a lightweight, nonpolluting fuel for aircraft and automobiles. Hydrogen can be extracted from ocean water by running an electric current through the water. But this process, called electrolysis, requires enormous quantities of electricity."

Lastly, I am not surprised that you found it difficult to look for references on liquid hydrogen. I myself did not have such an easy time, especially for sources in print and validated by scientists. You can always surf the Net—I came across dozens of sites on liquid hydrogen, but some of them make claims, which I feel are still unsubstantiated. Your best bets would be sites, which are connected to universities, scientific organizations and government agencies. Steer clear of sites, which have outlandish claims of liquid hydrogen being the next big fuel source.

* * *

Send your queries and comments to me c/o Ateneo de Manila University, Math Department, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Or e-mail me at queena@mathsci.math.admu.edu.ph.

The case of a young man in a hurry

BY RAFAEL CASTILLO, M.D.

MEDICAL FILES

RICO just got back from a quick trip to Bangkok to buy some garments for the store he and a few friends recently opened. In a couple of weeks, he would be going back to school for his summer classes.

Rico was a young man in a hurry who imposed a strict timetable on himself. Three years to finish his business course; another 3 years to earn his first 5 million bucks; and another 3 years to have his own dream house in the same posh Makati village where they're staying.

Not feeling well

On the day that he was supposed to enroll for his summer classes, Rico felt generalized body malaise, a vague feeling of simply not feeling well. He picked on his food, which was most unheard of with his usually monstrous appetite. What was even more unusual was his sudden distaste for cigarettes, a whole pack of which he would consume daily.

A day later, the anorexia was even compounded by nausea and vomiting, fever and some muscle pains. After a few days, Rico's urine also became tea-colored; and his eyes and skin turned yellow. He was referred to Dr. Choy Nolasco, a well-known gastroenterologist at the Manila Doctors' Hospital.

"You have an acute viral hepatitis," Dr. Nolasco told Rico after taking his history and examining him.

"What's it all about? How did I get this, doc?" Rico asked, still refusing to believe that he was sick. He has never been sick, or anywhere near a doctor for a long, long time. He always thought of himself as an indefatigable machine. Dr. Nolasco had to patiently explain to him his medical condition.

Inflammation

Acute viral hepatitis or AVH is an inflammation or swelling of the liver caused by infection with one of the five hepatitis viruses, simply identified as hepatitis A, B, C, D and E. The inflammation begins suddenly and lasts a few weeks. The yellowing of the eyes and skin called jaundice usually peaks in 1 to 2 weeks, then fades in 2 to 4 weeks.

Rico presented with the classical signs and symptoms of AVH. Dr. Nolasco also noted that his liver was enlarged and tender on physical examination. Diagnosis is usually based on the clinical presentation plus the results of blood tests that evaluate liver function.

Patients with AVH usually recover after 4 to 8 weeks, even without treatment. Those with unusually severe symptoms may require hospitalization, for supportive therapy such as intravenous fluids, especially during the first few days when the patient has no appetite and may get dehydrated from severe nausea and vomiting. After several days, the appetite usually returns even if the patient remains jaundiced. Severe restrictions of diet or activity are unnecessary. Most people can safely return to work after the jaundice clears, even if their liver function tests are still abnormal.

Preventive measures are essential in minimizing the spread of the hepatitis viruses. Because hepatitis A can be spread through the stools, good hygiene is a must particularly in the handling of stool samples of infected individuals by health practitioners. The same precaution should be exercised in handling the blood specimen of those with any type of AVH. Although isolation is commonly practiced for those infected with AVH, it does little to prevent the transmission of hepatitis A or E, and it won't prevent the transmission of hepatitis B, C or D.

The chances of infection of hepatitis B or C can be reduced by avoiding unnecessary blood transfusions. Using blood donated by relatives or friends rather than paid donors, and screening all blood donors for hepatitis B and C can also significantly reduce but not totally eliminate blood-borne transmission of these types of hepatitis.

Vaccines

Vaccination against hepatitis B stimulates the body's defense system to produce antibodies to guard against the hepatitis B virus. Vaccination is recommended for individuals at high risk for contracting hepatitis B such as hospital and laboratory personnel. It isn't effective though if the disease is already established.

Hepatitis A vaccines may be given to high-risk individuals such as travelers to countries where the disease is prevalent. No vaccines are available against hepatitis C, D and E viruses. For those who have not been vaccinated but have been exposed to hepatitis patients, administration of immune serum globulin, which contains antibodies against the hepatitis viruses, may offer some protection.

Rico was confined for a week at the Manila Doctors' Hospital and was discharged symptom-free. His usual appetite has returned and his urine color became normal again. His jaundice however took another week to clear up. He didn't enroll anymore for his summer classes. He decided to give himself a break for the rest of the summer vacation.

The illness has given Rico a fresh outlook in life. He now realizes that one's body, no matter how healthy one looks, is not an indefatigable machine. It needs to rest from time to time. Most important, Rico now realizes that life is not a 100-meter race that should prompt young, ambitious individuals like him to sprint for the finish line in a rush. Life, Rico now recognizes, is a long marathon. The true winner is one who can maintain his running pace, and at the same time, enjoy the lilies and chirping birds along the way to the finish line.

(Medical Files is based on the case histories of actual patients. Apart from the medical information, it stresses the socio-psychological impact of disease on the patient. Some information have been changed to hide the patient's identity. Mail comments or inquiries to Room 601, Medical Arts Center, Manila Doctors' Hospital. T. M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila, or e-mail rrc@i-manila.com.ph.)

US experts conduct wastewater seminar

THE WATER Environment Association of the Philippines Inc., a member of the Association of Water Environment Federation based in the United States, will conduct a two-day seminar on wastewater processes and operators' training course. It will be held on May 29-30 at the Manila Galleria Suites, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Supporting the seminar is the United States-Asia Environmental Partnership (US-AEP). The seminar will be presented by American and Filipino experts in wastewater engineering.

The same seminar will also be held on June 1-2 at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu City and on June 4-5 at the Marco Polo Hotel in Davao City.

The seminar aims to provide participants information on the various available wastewater treatment technologies in both secondary and advanced treatment processes.

It will also provide technical information on the laboratory and industrial pretreatment programs, practices for plant operator's sewer use and rate ordinance, and an overview of the Clean Water Act. Participants may fax inquiries to the WEAP secretariat at 410-1119 and 374-0250.

Does exercise give your skin the run-around?

SLOWLY, you step into the weighing scale without a blink. Five pounds off! A triumphant smile spreads across your face. Then casually, you face the mirror and look hard. You break into a stifled scream of mixed terror and helplessness. There before you are large, ugly zits waiting to burst!

Cases like this can happen to most health buffs who work out regularly without giving proper care for their skin. Being fit should not keep one from having a pimple-free skin, since it is also a part of leading a healthy lifestyle. A basic knowledge on workout-related acne and its preventive measures is the first step to keeping both.

Formation of acne

Still unknown to many, working out in tight-fitting clothes can cause friction and clogging of the pores, with perspiration contributing to the formation of acne.

Acne that is triggered by working out may appear as whiteheads, blackheads and small papules on the forehead, chest, neck, shoulders and back. It usually begins with small bumps that could swell and redden.

To avoid and help cure workout-related acne, take a shower after an exercise or, at the very least, wash your face with an antibacterial cleanser to help remove perspiration, surface oils and bacteria from your skin. Better yet, a visit with a dermatologist is the best chance to control acne.

Try to be patient

Apart from cleansers and astringents with salicylic acid that may be prescribed by your dermatologist, the newest topical retinoid called Adapalene is very effective in clearing acne. A breakthrough in US dermatology, Adapalene is a powerful molecule, which treats acne by working below the surface of the skin, helping control and eliminate the accumulation of skin cells that can plug a pore. Since it is nonphototoxic, Adapalene will not degrade in the presence of the sun. Therefore, it will not cause as much irritation as the other currently available tretinoins.

While following your dermatologist's recommendations, try to be patient when dealing with acne. A pimple-free skin does not happen overnight. It may take days or even weeks for acne to clear up.

Keep in mind that part of feeling good is not only being fit, but also having clear and healthy skin. And best of all, pay a visit to your dermatologist.

Blood donation sought

THE PHILIPPINE Nuclear Research Institute's Cancer Research and Radiation Biology Laboratory is inviting Filipinos who want to be part of the first Filipino database for breast cancer to donate 20 ml of their blood.

For inquiries, please call up PNRI molecular biologist Custer Deocaris at 929-6010 to 19 local 238, 9208776 or PNRI's information officer Justina Sergio Cerbolles at 9296011 to 19 loc. 286 for more details.

Melatonin benefits in aging, sex, cancer

ENTHUSIASM for the food supplement melatonin continues to grow. And the exciting prospects are that at 90, one may still be actively working, living and loving in much the same way and with much the same strength and vigor enjoyed some 35 or 40 years ago.

Such is the response to the message of Prof. Walter Pierpaoli, MD, Ph.D., and William Regelson, MD, in their best-selling book "The Melatonin Miracle," which is based on the authors' groundbreaking research published by the National Academy of Science and the New York Academy of Sciences in the United States.

Safe food supplement

The authors said melatonin is a safe food supplement that can turn back the aging clock to slow down the aging process, thus extending the average life span from 75 to 120 years. The book also discusses how it can reinvigorate one's sex life, whether one is 30, 60 or 90 years old; and how it can revive the immune system so one can live well and disease-free for a century or more. These benefits are on top of the sleep-enhancing effect for which melatonin has been prescribed by many doctors.

The two authors, however, emphasized that melatonin is neither a panacea nor a "happy pill" that will provide quick fixes or superficial results. Although its sleep enhancing effects may be felt immediately or after a few days, its other benefits are expected to be experienced gradually, over time.

Melatonin-T, in 3-mg capsules, is available as an over-the-counter supplement in Mercury and other leading drug stores. It is manufactured by NOW International (formerly called HealthCo International), one of the leading manufacturers of vitamins and food supplements in the United States. Melatonin-T is recommended at a dose of 1 to 2 capsules (3-6 mg) to be taken 30 minutes before bedtime.

Research authors

Pierpaoli, an internationally renowned researcher, has authored numerous scientific papers on neuroendocrinology of aging and transplantation immunolgy. He is the head of laboratory and research at the Biancalana-Masera Foundation for the Aged in Ancona, Italy. He organized the International Stromboli Conferences on Aging and Cancer in 1987, 1990 and 1993.

Regelson, a professor of medicine at the Medical College of Virginia, is a specialist in cancer or medical oncology, with joint appointments in microbiology and biomedical engineering. A leading researcher in the field of aging for more than 25 years, he was formerly the scientific director of the Integrative Biomedical Research Foundation, which is dedicated to research on the biology of aging.

Retarding the aging process

Melatonin is secreted by the pineal gland, which is a pea-sized structure in the brain. It has been shown to control the body's biological clock, which is the internal mechanism that tells us when it is time to sleep and wake up.

Melatonin is instrumental in establishing the daily rhythms, from infancy onward. Melatonin secretion peaks during childhood and drops temporarily during adolescence. With aging, the melatonin secretion continues to decrease, with the steepest decline occurring from age 50 and older. By age 60, the pineal gland can produce only half the amount of melatonin secreted at age 20. "It is not coincidental that as melatonin levels drop, we exhibit serious signs of aging," explained Pierpaoli and Regelson in their book.

Thus, they said it is possible to retard the aging process and reset the aging clock so one can live well into the ninth and tenth decades of life. "What we are talking about is years that are productive and enjoyable; years that any of us would regard as among the best of our lives," the authors stressed.

They also cited researchers at Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans who have shown that melatonin can inhibit the growth of human breast cancer cells. Cancer specialists in Milan, Italy, have actually been using melatonin to treat cancer patients in conjunction with traditional chemotherapy and immunotherapy. They have reported that melatonin-treated patients showed tumor regression and lived longer with fewer side-effects than those who did not receive melatonin.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

Filipinos urged to wage 'war' vs lung 'enemies'

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

UNLESS something goes wrong with your breathing, would you even give your lungs a thought?

With 34 million of the 76 million Filipinos directly exposed to risks of cancer such as tobacco smoke, and 75 of our countrymen dying every day from tuberculosis, Filipinos may finally want to take a closer look at how they treat their lungs. As this section's Charter Bureau cited last week, chronic lung diseases—attributed to the increase in environmental pollution and smoking among the young—are very common and are steadily increasing in developing countries like the Philippines.

Dr. Eric A. Tayag, the Department of Health's director for national center for disease prevention and control, admits that the country is on an uphill climb, or a losing battle against smoking. He said the country is up against two factors that have no medical treatment: Filipino behavior and the multibillion-peso tobacco industry.

Big enemy

Said Tayag: "No medicine could tell smokers to stop smoking. We have a big enemy because the tobacco industry is there. Fighting it is like weighing the economic benefits gained from (selling and producing) tobacco against the ill-effects brought about by tobacco. But the choice (should have been clear) since health should never be compromised."

Tayag added that if other countries were pursuing damages that the cigarette companies have to pay for, the Philippines is still in the stages of restricting smoking in public places as well as the possibility of prohibiting advertisements of tobacco via legislative action and political will.

However, the tobacco industry, he added, is still winning out, using its economic benefits as leverage. As a result, the individual smokers become the sacrificial lambs, Tayag laments.

Other enemies

Another enemy of the lung is air pollution. Although we have the opportunity to minimize this via the Clean Air Act, the challenge is its implementation and the acquisition of expensive equipment.

Asthma's triggering environmental and genetic factors, on the other hand, could be remedied, said Tayag. "It's just a matter of applying the available technology at the right time," said Tayag.

Asthma afflicts 12 percent of the Philippine population.

"Whether it's caused by pollution, environment, inherited or you got from an infection, the truth is there is cheap medicine to remedy it."

Meanwhile, Tayag said that although many Filipinos are dying of TB, the DOH has infrastructure in place called directly observed treatment short course (DOTS) started in 1996.

The only enemy, cited Tayag, is time because it may take 10 to 15 years before the country can totally eliminate it as a public health problem. He cited stress, malnutrition and immunosuppression (lowered resistance) as some of the factors that could activate adult TB.

Respiratory tract infections, on the other hand, happen all year round. The most likely victims are the very young (infants) and the very old (elderly).

Vaccination is the ideal treatment for the elderly. Unfortunately, Tayag says the government cannot subsidize such treatments. Respiratory tract infection among infants, however, can be minimized, as the government has the funds to treat infants.

Educational campaign

The DOH this month is undertaking an all-out battle against lung diseases via a nationwide educational campaign on print and radio. Called "Healthy Lungs," it would focus on the eradication of TB, asthma and smoking. The DOH said that it has placed this campaign as one of its top priorities.

The DOH is also set for the "World No Tobacco Day" on May 31, "No Smoking Month" in June, "Lung Month" in August and the "World Asthma Day" on Dec. 11.

Leading cause of death

Among the acute respiratory infections (ARI) cited by the Department of Health, pneumonia—an infection of the lungs marked by cough and rapid breathing—is placed as one of the most common causes of morbidity and mortality in all age groups and more so among children. The DOH says that both bacteria and viruses can cause pneumonia.

As the DOH's national objectives cited, during a 1998 National Demographic Health Survey's preliminary result, it showed how acute respiratory infection is still the leading cause of death among children. Among them are children 12 to 23 months old, children with birth order 6 or higher, children in rural areas, and children born to mothers with low or no education. CAR was cited as having the highest incidence of cough with rapid breathing with 58 percent of all its infants taken to a health facility. Undernutrition and low birth weight were cited as some of the risk factors for pneumonia. Reduction in the prevalence of these two factors, cited a study, has substantial impact in reducing pneumonia deaths.

Further research is recommended to reveal the exact impact of air pollutants on the morbidity and mortality of Filipinos.

SMOKING TRIVIA

SMOKING doubles one's risk for a heart attack. This is one of the trivias found inside giant cigarette sticks in the traveling exhibit.

Museo Pambata campaigns against smoking

BE smart, don't ever start!

This is the message of Museo Pambata's antismoking traveling exhibit that was on view recently at the Cyberzone of SM Southmall in Las Piñas City.

With hands-on tools and activities designed to encourage fun learning, the exhibit explains to children why smoking is dangerous to their bodies. Studies have shown that on the average, Filipinos start to smoke at age 14 to 17, sometimes even as early as nine years old. Usually, they take up the habit out of curiosity, peer pressure or a negative self-image that results in a desire to be "cool" or "in," as most tobacco ads portray smokers to be. The Philippines ranks as one of the highest in the world in terms of the number of smokers, and it is estimated that 23 percent of our young population smoke.

"Be Smart, Don't Ever Start!" ("Maging Matalino, Iwasang Manigarilyo" in Filipino) is a Department of Health-sponsored campaign that strives to abolish the notion among young people that smoking is cool. By emphasizing its health hazards—from bad breath to possible death—the exhibit aims to discourage children from smoking and encourage adults who have a strong influence on children, particularly the parents and teachers, to join the fight against this deadly habit.

Since its opening in 1994, Museo Pambata has been a staunch advocate of health awareness among children, inspiring one of the major theme rooms in the museum, the Katawan Ko/Bodyworks. It continues to work alongside the Department of Health in promoting a clean and healthy lifestyle to Filipinos nationwide through this interactive traveling exhibit. In July, "Be Smart, Don't Ever Start!" is scheduled for a month-long exhibition in Batangas City.

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1. All BPI/BPI Family Bank Express Teller and BPI Direct ATM cardholders who use the EPS from April 30 to July 15, 2001 can join the promo.
2. Every ₱1,000 EPS purchase in a single receipt will qualify a cardholder to one (1) computer-generated raffle number.
3. Only a maximum of five (5) raffle numbers in a day will be assigned to an accountholder who used the EPS.
4. For the weekly draw, the following shall apply:
   - Three (3) winners will win back amount of EPS purchase up to a maximum of ₱5,000 per winner (minimum ₱1,000).
   - Computer-generated raffle numbers assigned to EPS purchase on a particular day are valid for that week only.
   - An accountholder can win only ONCE in each week's draw. If drawn more than once, he will get the prize with the higher value.
   - All draws will be held at the 15/F, BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati City at 3 p.m. on the following dates:

Purchase Dates	Draw Dates
April 30 to May 6	May 9
May 7 to May 13	May 16
May 14 to May 20	May 23
May 21 to May 27	May 30
May 28 to June 3	June 6
June 4 to June 10	June 13
June 11 to June 17	June 20
June 18 to June 24	June 27
June 25 to July 1	July 4
July 2 to July 8	July 11
July 9 to July 15	July 18

A DTI representative will be present at each draw.
   - The amount won will be credited to the winner's account within seven (7) working days after the draw date.
5. For the Grand Draw, the following shall apply:
   - There will be three (3) grand draw winners.
   - All computer-generated raffle numbers assigned to EPS purchase within the promo period are qualified for the Grand Draw.
   - The three (3) Grand Prize winners shall each be entitled to reimbursement of one-year tuition fee of one first degree family member of school age (elementary to college) up to a maximum of ₱100,000 subject to submission of proof of tuition fee payment or school assesment and birth certificate of the child.
   - Otherwise, if client does not have a first degree family member of school age, or if client cannot submit required documentation, client then wins a cash prize of ₱50,000.
   - Grand Draw will be held on July 18, 2001 at the 15/F, BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati City at 3 p.m. A DTI representative will be present to witness the draw.
   - An accountholder can only win once. Taxes on all prizes shall be shouldered by BPI.
   - All Grand Draw winners can claim their prizes at 15/F, BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati. Just present your Express Teller Card and one (1) valid ID (drivers license, Company ID, SSS).
6. List of account numbers with corresponding computer-generated raffle numbers will be available at the following locations:
   * BPI Main Branch, BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati City
   * BPI Family Bank Main Branch, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
   * BPI Baguio-Burnham Branch, Baguio City
   * BPI Cebu-Mango Branch, Cebu City
7. Winners will be notified by registered mail. Complete list of winners will be published in a major newspaper with national circulation at the end of the promo.
8. Unclaimed prizes after 60 days from receipt of notification shall be forfeited with prior approval from DTI.
9. All Express Teller/BPI Direct accounts that are closed/terminated, dormant, under litigation or garnished during the promo period are disqualified.
10. All employees of BPI Unibank, its PR and advertising agencies, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified.
11. In case of dispute, the decision of BPI Unibank, with the concurrence of DTI, shall be deemed final.

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1 cup NESTLÉ Gold Breakfast Cereals

Whisk first three ingredients. Place cream mixture, fruit and cereal in layers. Repeat layering for remaining ingredients with cereal on top. Chill very well before serving.

Watch out for next week's fruity treat!

SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2001
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
C1

Saturday SPECIAL

NESTOR U. TORRE, Editor EDMUND L. SICAM, Associate Editor

Treat of the Week

Anggun's songs are full of tranquility and vulnerability

ANGGUN. The lyrics of her song flow like poetry.

She infuses her music with the soul of a true Asian

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

HARD Rock Cafe was filled to the rafters when Anggun launched her latest album, "Chrysalis." The show started late (around 10 p.m.) but after hearing Anggun dish out songs like "Snow On the Sahara," "With the Breath of an Angel," "Still Reminds Me" and "Chrysalis," it became clear that she was worth the wait. She's the Indonesian counterpart of Grace Nono and Cynthia Alexander, although she moves with more grace and charm.

Lyrics

The lyrics of her songs flow like poetry. Anggun feels that she composes that way because her father was a poet and writer. As a child, she was fascinated with dancing, singing and playing the piano, but she was also intrigued with rock culture and music.

But unlike Western pop stars, Anggun is not at all preoccupied with fame and money. She even views her work with cool detachment.

We asked her how she felt when she recorded her hit song, "Snow on the Sahara" and she quipped, "There was nothing special about recording "Snow on the Sahara. I just went to the studio, recorded the song, and that was it!"

Anggun enjoys performing more than recording. "The best thing about being on tour is the meaning it gives to your music. When you sing to the crowd, you satisfy them and yourself. Being a singer is not about having a music video on TV, it's about being onstage!

"I found myself in the United States at the Lilith Fair (an all-women travelling festival) with artists like Queen Latifah, Sarah Mclachlan, Nathalie Merchant and Bonnie Raitt. But touring can be very lonely. In a day, you meet thousands of people, but at night, you find yourself alone in your hotel, thinking of your man or your life in general.

Suffering

"My father once told me that you write because you want to express your suffering, it was then that I truly understood him.

"The worst thing about being on tour is that I don't feel my body getting tired. My body just follows and I get on the plane, hop off the plane, do interviews, then perform—and that's dangerous because I'm pushing myself to the limit," Anggun sighs.

Her musical influences include Sting, David Bowie and Freddie Mercury of the Queens, but her musical development came in stages. She became a star in Indonesia when she was nine but she never cut herself off from the world. Why doesn't she live like a star?

"The status of a singer, even a famous one, is different in Indonesia. *Everyone* can sing there! A baby learns to walk, talk, dance and sing, in that order. Being a musician in Indonesia is not really seen as a job. And riding in a limousine and wearing dark glasses wouldn't go with the scenery! Even though you sell dreams, you cut yourself and bleed like anyone else," Anggun poetically explains.

"At the age of nine, the records you make are obviously impersonal, you have no independence at all. Although I did write four songs on my first album, a very pop one with my father. From 12 to 13, I was in love with rock 'n' roll. I wanted to become the first female

ANGGUN'S/ p.C2

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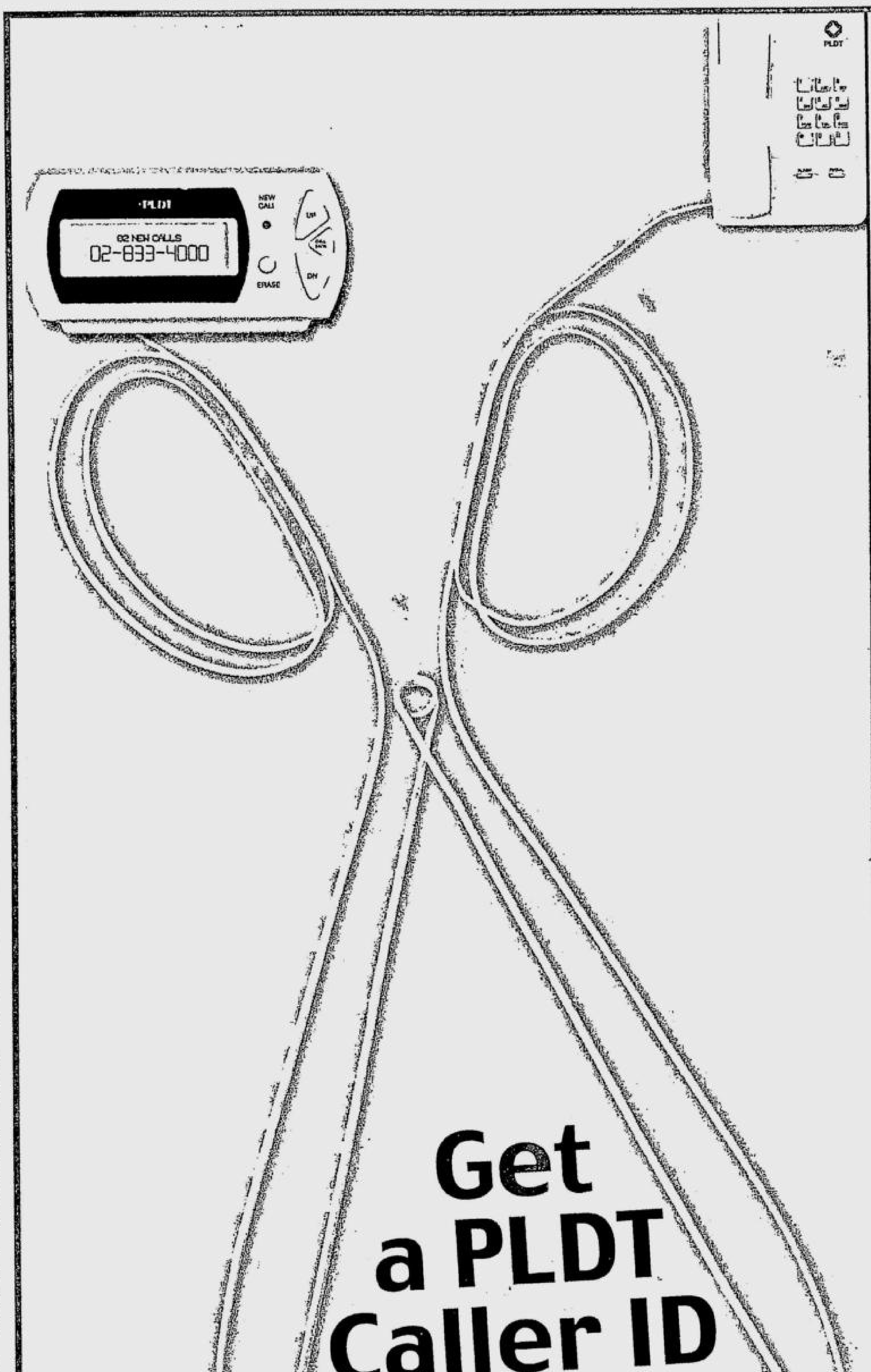

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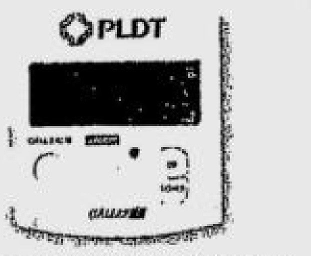

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.0467 Series of 2001

'Pelikulang Pambata' winners point to new directions in screenplay writing

By Lynn S. Pareja

SEVEN out of 10 winners in the year 2000 screenwriting contest "Pelikulang Pambata" sponsored by the Film Development of the Philippines, Inc. (FDFPI) are young college graduates who attended scriptwriting workshops to chart new directions in local filmmaking.

The first and third prize winners are workshop graduates of FDFPI under Nestor Torre, while the second prize winner is a product of Ricky Lee's workshop.

YAMAMOTO. Her beautiful story about a boy and his grandfather won the top prize.

Workshop gradutes

A majority of those who landed in the honorable mention category (four out of seven) were also FDFPI workshop graduates, an indication that the foundation is on the right track in pursuing training and development efforts to help the local film industry face the challenges of the new millennium.

Unlike those of previous years, this contest had a specific focus: screenplays for movies that can be viewed by children.

Alarmed that the output of the local movie industry over the past few years has become too adult and restricted for children, then FDFPI president Marichu Maceda felt that it was time to boost movie production with scripts with positive values that young people can watch and learn from even as they enjoy the movies.

Thus, the theme of "Pelikulang Pambata," screenplays for movies that need not be about children, but which can be viewed by the country's millions of minors in their growing-up years.

Grandfather

First-prize winner Michiko Yamamoto's entry, "Magnifico Madyikero," is a beautiful story about a 12-year-old boy and his attachment to his grandfather which goes beyond the grave. It was the unanimous choice of all three judges in the final selection and two of the three judges in the semi-final division.

Yamamoto, 20, is half-Chinese, half-Japanese, with Filipino and Spanish blood in her veins. She was born in Bulacan and has lived all her life in the Philippines. She has a degree in computer science from UST and belongs to Batch 1999 of the FDFPI workshop. She now works as creative researcher for Viva Films.

Second-prize winner Divine Love Salvador, 22, claims that "Bochog," which deals with child obesity, is based on her own experiences as a fat child. A psychology graduate from UP Diliman, she has a Freudian approach to problems, believing that human nature and experience are an infinite realm of possibilities. She is a free-lance writer and aspires to become a filmmaker someday.

Dysfunctional family

Third-prize winner Rica Arevalo, 26, focuses on a dysfunctional family in her work, "Pamilya," but her point of view is positive. Family crises are seen through the eyes of a 10-year-old boy.

Arevalo finished her AB Communication Arts at De La Salle University and is now an independent filmmaker. She contributes to the Saturday Special section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and is a member of the writing pool of GMA-7's "Maynila."

She also won first place in the FDFPI's annual screenwriting contest three years ago.

The honorable mention winners:

Jonathan Espiritu, 48, unbashedly admits that his love for horses drove him to write "Yokabibs," the tale of a white horse. "Yokabibs" is the ruler of all equine species. Espiritu is married, with a four-year-old son whom he sometimes takes with him to the races.

Clarissa Estuar, 24, writes about friendship and bonding in "Ako at ang Aking Kababata." Estuar is a freelance scriptwriter who lives in Las Piñas City.

Animation

Angelo C. Hernandez, 47, combines mythology and psuedo-ethnicity in his work, "Sugo Saga." His bid for animation has some interesting potentials. Long before "Batibot" entered the airwaves, he has been toying with his project which he intended to enter at the ECP competitions. He is now in advertising.

Joselito D. de los Reyes, 24, gives a poignant treatment to the death of a father which is beautifully non-melodramatic in "Sa Lilim ng mga Bituin." He is a student of the Philippine Normal College and resides in Valenzuela City.

Rommel B. Rodriguez writes about heroes in "Bayan ni Bayani." His protagonist is a young boy who indulges in fantasy *komiks* and video games while idolizing Jose Rizal. Rodriguez teaches Filipino and Philippine Literature at UP CAL, Diliman.

Childless couple

Joey T. Serrato, 32, has a moving story about a childless couple in "Little Star." Serrato belongs to FDFPI Batch 1999 and has won honors in a previous contest for another work, "Pantasma," which has been purchased for filming by a progressive movie company.

Geonard B. Yleana, 28, tackles the tale of two orphans in "Munting Ulap." Yleana also belongs to Batch 1999 and is a previous contest winner who now works as a scriptwriter for Viva Films.

Cash prizes of P70,000, P50,000 and P30,000 will be awarded to the winners of the first, second and third prizes, respectively. Honorable mention winners will receive a cash prize of P10,000 each. Venue of the awarding rites will be announced next week.

Anggun's . . .

(From page C1)

Indonesian heavy metal singer! I knew Metallica, Megadeath and Danzig by heart.

Woman

"But at 18, my body changed and I felt more like a woman than a teenager. I swapped my Doc Martens for elegant shoes, and I began to discover other styles of music.

"In Indonesia, as in the rest of Asia, anything from the United States is seen as exotic. The West fascinates us. But having gone through that fascination, I rediscovered our traditional musical heritage.

"I loved Nusrat Fateh, Ali Khan and Sheila Chandra. Since my career could no longer develop in Indonesia, I chose to go and work in Europe. London first, then Paris," Anggun continues.

Her songs are filled with tranquility and vulnerability. She rarely infuses it with folly and adventure. Does "exile" make her more melancholic?

Nostalgia

"It would be easy to sink into nostalgia. Being away from my country makes me feel closer to it. But it doesn't necessarily make me sad. When I think of my family, I love them differently, perhaps in a deeper way.

"These new songs ("Chrysalis," "Still Reminds Me") certainly have more emotive depth, but I also want to retain a certain modesty. In Indonesia, we don't easily reveal what is in our hearts.

"Even if I've learned to be more direct and demonstrative in France, I've kept my modest side. The important thing is to be sincere, that's the difference between good and bad music," Anggun smiles.

Anggun's voice is not that spectacular but she sets her songs apart by infusing them with sincerity, sensitivity and the unique soul of a true Asian.

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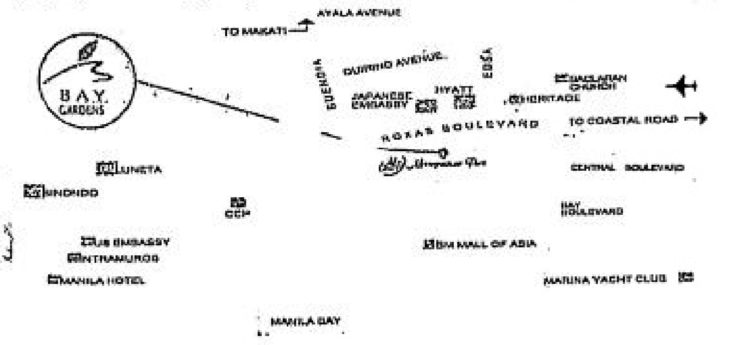

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For Announcement Purposes Only

Lani Misalucha balances singing and parenting

By Andy Bais

FANS of Lani Misalucha should be grateful to the husband-wife team of musicians Bodgie Dasig and Odette Quesada. If they hadn't been persistent in their desire for Lani to embark on a recording career, we wouldn't be blessed with her genuine gift of voice.

Solo album

Bodgie and Odette started convincing Lani to record a solo album way back in 1993, but it took Lani three years to finally say yes. The album, produced by the couple under Alpha Records, was recorded in 1996 and was launched in 1997. It contained the remake of "Somebody Warm Like Me " which became a mild hit.

Two years later, Lani waxed her second album, actually her first under Viva—and that helped reinforce her presence on the recording scene. It produced a monster hit in "You Don't Have To Say You Love Me," a remake of the love ballad from the '60s, which many thought was an original Filipino composition. Local music critics even went on to say that her version was much better than the original.

No wonder that it was one of the songs that dominated the airwaves in 1999. The song was also her passport to the enviable company of the reigning pop divas—Regine Velasquez, Jaya and Zsa Zsa Padilla.

Her second album with Viva, "All Heart," was also well-received. It was launched via a two-night concert last year at the Music Museum, which were both SRO. The producers had to do a repeat to accommodate those who were not able to watch the regular shows. Indeed, the reluctant singer had finally hit the jackpot!

Why did it take her so long to decide to seriously embark on a singing career? "*Inuna ko kasing maging nanay at kuntento rin naman ako sa mga ginagawa ko noon*, which were all related to my career now," Lani gushes.

Bands

Before she hit the bigtime, Lani was doing the rounds as a singer for various bands, and also went solo as a lounge performer. She was the voice behind a number of commercial jingles and, for quite a while, was considered the "multiplex queen," approximating the voices of Whitney Houston, Mariah Carey and Celine Dion. She also ghost-sung for non-singing actresses when they lip-synched their songs on TV.

As a band singer, Lani was earning only P300 for a night's work, which consisted of three sets of 45 minutes each! For multiplex recording, she was paid P500 if she was the lead singer and P100 per track if she did back-up parts. Despite getting little for the hard work, she wasn't complaining. "Happy *na ako doon* because what I really wanted was a simple life. *Kaya nga* I married and had children early because that's what I wanted. I was contented to stay at home, and earning a little on the side.

"But the opportunity to try my luck in mainstream entertainment just kept on knocking on my door. So, my husband and I thought seriously about it and we both said, *bakit nga ba hindi*?" she recalls.

Lani never regretted her much-delayed entrance into show business." Okay *lang sa akin* dahil it came at a time *na malalaki na ang mga anak ko*. More or less, *pwede ko na silang maiwanan* on their own at *naiintindihan na nila ang trabaho ko*," she explains.

Two children

The Misaluchas have two children, both girls. Louven is 10 years old and Lian is seven. Husband Noli works at PLDT.

Did she have a hard time adjusting to her newfound celebrity status? "That's one beautiful thing that happened to me. *Lahat ng bagay*, happened gradually. *Di naging mahirap sa akin. Nakakatawa nga lang, di na ako makalabas ng bahay ng walang* make-up," she frowns.

Lani is thankful that she has a very supportive and intelligent husband. "*Naiintindihan ni Noli na gusto ko talaga ang pagkanta* and that I am happy with my career.Lately, *tinutukso siya sa* office *niya na mas kumikita na raw ako sa kanya. Pero*, never *siyang na*-insecure.

"It helps that he is very broadminded and understanding *at mabait pa. Wala talaga akong problema sa kanya, basta huwag lang daw akong mag*-expose ng *aking pusod!*" she laughs.

How is she coping with her job as mother and wife considering that she has her hands full with her show biz career? "Until recently, when I got a driver, *talagang* I made it a point to wake up at 6:30 in the morning so I could drive my kids to school. I also help in doing their school assignments whenever I have the time.

Transformation

"*Kaya nga*, when writers ask me about the things I do when I'm not working, I tell them that I still work! Complete transformation *talaga*. Once I'm out of the limelight, *nanay bigla ang papel ko sa buhay*, I believe *talaga* that being a mother is my first calling,"she says.

Needless to say, her family is Lani's top priority. That's why, whenever possible, she brings her whole family along with her when she does out-of-town shows. It breaks her heart when she can't bring her family along with her, but she has slowly learned to live with it.

Lani will soon be working on her third album which will be released this year. There is also a possibility for a major concert in a big venue. One thing is sure, though: she is this year's featured artist for the Crossover Live Tour which will cover Cebu, Davao, Baguio and Manila. And Lani deserves all the breaks she's getting!

MISALUCHA. Late bloomer.

Sharon has a new album of old songs

By Monica S. Gutierrez

(Conclusion)

SHARON is very careful about keeping her name clean. "OK *lang sana kung alam mo iyung nagawa na niya. Kung maganda, OK lang iyon. Pero kung di mo kilala, nakakatakot.*" That's how she explains her being leery of smooth-talking strangers with hidden agendas.

Good people

However, she observes that there are a lot of good people, too. "Kiko has had this network of young political leaders for many years, so *iyon ang talagang* enjoy *na* enjoy *kami*. It's my pleasure to help them in whatever way I can."

For the past months, Sharon says she has been living and breathing politics, and she is tired.

"This (show business) is my world, it's not politics. *Mas* happy *ako na* it's what I like to do best."

She says that because of this whole campaign experience, she has a newfound regard for her companions in the business. "*Kung anu-anong pang-aapi sa artista*, actually they're (politicians) worse, much worse! They're better actors, and comedians . . . A lot of them want to do some good, but a lot of them . . . *doon ako na*-u-upset. It's really a snake pit."

Days ahead

If Kiko wins in May, which is more than likely, Sharon better brace herself for the days ahead. Politics will, whether she likes it or not, become part of her world, too.

Someone suggested that she get tips from another possible senatorial wife and politician, Vilma Santos. Sharon laughs that there was only one time that they were together on a sortie. They even shared the same cottage in Plantation Bay in Cebu City, but they still didn't get to see each other.

PPC rallies

There were two PPC rallies in Cebu and Sharon was assigned to one, while Vilma was assigned to the other. When Sharon got back to the cottage that evening, she saw Vilma's mother and sister. They told her that Vilma was just washing up.

Sharon waited for as long as she could, but then decided to retire when she remembered she had an early flight the next day.

"*Pag-gising ko naman, sabi ni Yaya, kakaalis lang ni Ate Vi. Di ko pa nakakausap!* I've been looking forward to it for the longest time, so *sayang*."

Sharon says she hasn't cried much during this campaign. "*Ang iniiyak ko, hindi intriga. Ang iniiyak ko, pagod*. But nothing's ever really brought me down. *Basta masaya ako nangangampanya*."

Sharon also proudly declares that she has lost 21 pounds since giving birth. "The minute this campaign is over, I'm going back to my very strict diet," she promises. She teases that perhaps the next time she makes an appearance, she will come out in a slinky outfit.

She had already lost a lot of weight last year, when all of a sudden, she discovered she was pregnant. Still, Sharon and Kiko want to have at least two more children. "My dream is *sana* it's in multiples—twins or triplets!" Sharon exclaims with a dreamy look on her face.

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Gary V answers questions from his fans

BY JOCELYN VALLE

OF ALL the songs that his audience asks him to sing during his "Gary V: By Request 2" concert series, Gary Valenciano feels strongly for "The Warrior Is a Child," which is a cut in his new album called "Revive." "Whenever I sing it," he smiles, "*nararamdaman ko na nakikinig 'yung tao*. The response is very real."

Showstoppers

The pop star adds that he doesn't tire of singing his hits "Take Me Out of the Dark," "Sana Maulit Muli," "Reachin' Out," "Could You Me Messiah" and "I Will Be Here" over and over again during his concerts. But he admits that doing showstoppers like "Hataw Na" and "Shout For Joy" literally takes his breath away. "They're physically tiring to do," he says, shaking his head.

In the future, Gary would like to do some of the songs of Sting, U2 and Seal. Eminem or Madonna would be out of the question, though. Meantime, he'll be dishing out more requested tunes as "Gary V: By Request 2" goes to Ynares Center in Antipolo next Saturday, and to key US cities from May 19 to June 22.

Gary now knows what people want to hear from him, but does he have a clue about what's on their minds? Here are some of the questions people want to ask Gary—plus his responses:

Shirley Mejorada, secretary, AJONet:

Ikaw daw ang nag-compose ng campaign jingle ng brother-in-law mo (senatorial candidate Kiko Pangilinan) *at magdamag mo raw sinulat ito?*

Gary: I was commissioned to do a song for him *pero hindi ito 'yung* K-I-K-O. It's called "Kumilos Kasama si Kiko." Sharon sings it. I did the music, *hindi akin 'yung* lyrics. It's a simple song, but I know Kiko and Sharon, and I know the heart of Kiko so I thought of a love song *para sa bayan* and that's what I did.

Recorder

It usually takes me one week to do something like this. *Ito*, it took me three days. *Nilagay ko sa* recorder *ko* and *doon kami nag*-record *sa bahay nila* Sharon. It was a simple set-up. We were having cheeseburgers and—"*Ito, ito ang gawin mo*. OK."

Mawin Batan, customer service officer, Metrobank:

You went to the States a few years ago to start a career there. What happened?

That was in 1995 and 1996. What happened there was I felt that the demands for me to pack up and leave were too strenuous. I was told *na* if I stayed in the States for six months, it was almost guaranteed *na makikilala ako* at least by the Christian community there.

VALENCIANO. Family first.

But those six months meant six months of touring. Meaning, I may get to see family only two-three times and *maraming nagsabi sa akin*, including some artists in the States, *na 'wag bumigay sa ganyang klaseng* set-up because many families have been destroyed because of the lack of communication and quality and quantity time. So *sabi ko*, that I had to think about.

The second thing they wanted me to do was to pack up and go. *Sabi ko sa mga namamahala sa* States *na* I can't just go and close our Shining Light Foundation—you know, we help street children—and say, "God bless you, take care, and bye" because I have to go, because I have a career to take care of.

So I really thought about those things *kahit maraming nagsabi sa akin dito sa* Pilipinas, "*Alam mo*, Gary, *ngayon na ang pagkakataon. Kailangan mo talagang pumunta doon.*"

Offers

I decided, "No, I think I'll stay *na lang* in the Philippines. I'll make the most out of my career here." Although *hindi ko naman sinasabing wala ng* offers. As a matter of fact, I have an offer to do the voice of a cartoon character for an animation film for next year *pa*.

Richard Basa, intern, UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery:

Are you still planning to expand your career internationally, like establishing yourself in the US again?

When you think of music in the US *kasi, ang dami-daming* artists *na magagaling. Ang dami-dami pang magagaling na hindi pa nadi*-discover. So I'd like to try just sharing my music with a little bit of Filipino influence in it.

But not only in the US. I also want to try Europe, Australia or Japan, maybe. *Kasi sa* US *ngayon, naghahanap din sila ng* artists with a different sound, with a fresh approach.

Para sa akin, that's what I feel I'd like to do if not in a few years, maybe in months or weeks. Bottom line is, '*yung pagiging* international star—*kung mangyari 'yun*, OK. *Pero kung hindi mangyayari 'yun*, it will be OK to me also. I will not make that my top priority.

Priority

My priority now is really the people here at home, Filipinos abroad and Filipinos in the Middle East, if I can reach them and give them encouragement.

Crisel Diala, writer, UST public and alumni affairs office:

What is your stand on the current political situation in the country?

There have been certain things *na* I feel didn't have to happen. I know there's a lot of sympathy and some people's hearts go out to former president Erap Estrada. And I feel *na siguro* the way the arrest was handled could have been done in a more—how would you say it? *Masyadong na*-hype, *e*! *Tapos ang dami pang pinakita sa* TV *na para sa akin hindi na kailangang ipakita*.

However, I believe that the law should take its course. It's discouraging because *ang gulo*, but it's also encouraging to see that democracy is really working. It's grinding, and when you talk of grinding, *minsan masakit 'yan, pero* it has to take its full course.

No bloodshed

I pray that there will be no bloodshed. I'm happy that people's eyes are now open *kung ano talaga ang sinisigaw ng mahihirap*, and I hope that this entire situation will begin to make people not only think *kung ano ang kailangan nilang gawin sa mga mahihirap kundi gumawa ng aksyon* to help the poor. If not, it's just going to continue, no matter who the leader is.

Korch Capariño, law student, FEU:

If you had been invited to sing at the Edsa Shrine during the pro-Erap rallies, would you have performed there?

Yes, I would have gone there and not accept anything. But if I was going there to say I was for or against this person, I would not go. But if I was being asked to help inspire and try to bring some light and to shed some hope in the hearts of the people, then I would go.

At binanggit ko 'yan nang kumanta ako sa Edsa 2. *Binanggit ko na kung inimbitahan ako ng kabila*, I would go. *Siguro babatuhin ako* or they'll boo me, but I'm not there to take sides. I'm there to inspire, to encourage, because there's always hope. I'm there as a performer and as a person who is deeply concerned with the future of the people.

Sol Sta. Maria, special events coordinator, UST public and alumni affairs office:

How do you spend summers with your family?

Concert tour

It is the time when I go to the US for a concert tour. I do my best to take my family with me. Holy Week is spent *sa* beach—we have a great time! I also go bowling, I play basketball, I bring my children with me or we watch movies at home.

I like my kids to get involved in activities, like my son Paolo and daughter Kiana are now involved with Trumpets' workshops in acting and singing. My other son Gabriel will be involved in basketball next week. I want them to be constantly active throughout summer.

The exceptions rather than the rule

BY BEHN CERVANTES

THE MOST successful of Hollywood partnerships never saw the couple, Katharine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy, walking down the aisle to vow "till death do us part," although they remained man and woman till one of them passed away.

The open secret that was the unconventional relationship between one of the most glorious romantic pairs on the Hollywood screen remains a mystery to this day.

Screen test

Connecticut heiress and Bryn Mawr graduate Katharine Hepburn tried a society marriage and was scarred by the experience. She had been a successful Broadway actress appearing in Greek and Shakespearean classics as well as contemporary theatrical gems when she came to Hollywood for a screen test.

Katharine's distinctive looks and patrician style jarred Hollywood producers, who were more accustomed to dumb blonde and easy dames. Hepburn made producers do her bidding, refusing to sign regular contracts but instead demanded her right to choose scripts, directors, make-up artists, costume designers and co-stars.

She had a pick of the best of the leading men, having starred with John Barrymore in her auspicious debut "A Bill of Divorcement," Charles Boyer in "Break of Hearts," and Cary Grant and James Stewart in the huge critical and commercial success "The Philadelphia Story."

She had also impressed her co-star Frederic March and the incomparable Paul Muni who declared, "There's no one to touch her among the younger actresses—the only one approaching her is Margaret Sullavan—she's soft, charming, lovely. But she hasn't Hepburn's drive."

Hepburn was described as "not just a face but a personality." Producers were waiting to tap her considerable talent since the greatest of film directors George Cuckor and Lubitsch all demanded her artistic services. She had asked for and gotten newcomer George Stevens to direct "Alice Adams" in which film critic Pauline Kael says "Hepburn's pantomiming in some of the scenes is as fine as the best American acting I've ever seen."

TRACY AND HEPBURN. Open secret.

The wealthy Hartford lass tabbed by Kenneth Tyman as "the Garbo of the Great Outdoors" could have her pick of her scripts, directors and leading men.

However, it was the hard-drinking and two-time Academy Award winner Spencer Tracy who melted her Connecticut Yankee heart. After all, both the press and his peers considered him one of the greatest, if not the greatest of screen actors.

Bogart declared with a tinge of envy, "Spencer Tracy is a good actor, almost the best, because you don't see the mechanism working, the wheels turning."

Hepburn herself stated, "He never gussied it up. He just did it, he let it ride along on its enormous simplicity. That's what was absolutely thrilling about Spencer's acting."

If she was biased, she was supported by the view taken by Richard Widmark who gushed, "He's the greatest movie actor there ever was. He has great truth in everything he does."

Complicated

Frederich March, a two-time Academy Award winner himself, followed suit saying, "I'm nuts about Spencer." However, it was polished and New England-bred Hepburn who seemed to have really fallen in love with the exceptional talent and complicated Spencer Tracy.

They starred together in "Woman of the Year," and that started a partnership, off and on screen. The screen partnership lasted many decades and 10 films including "Keeper of the Flame," "State of the Union," "Without Love," "Sea of Grass," "Pat and Mike," "Adam's Rib" and "Desk Set."

They had an onscreen chemistry that may well be the "most rewarding in film history" says a film chronicler. Another Hollywood historian ascribes the success of the tandem to the opposite poles they represented. Katherine was "eager, intellectual and idealistic" while the wild Irishman was "down-to-earth, mocking and tolerant." These traits may well have reflected their real life characteristics

They were captivating as a team, scintillating and most definitely contemporary. In fact, the liberated woman and beleaguered macho characters they portrayed with such conviction were definitely ahead of their time.

Changes

She represented the new American professional woman eager to spread her wings and share the world too long dominated by men and masculine values. He epitomized the hard-working male trying to cope with the irreversible changes affecting man-woman relationships

They were definitely a sexy pair although few sexual goings-on were shown onscreen, in the contemporary sense. It is said that the first time the tempestous duo met for their debut film "Woman of the Year," Ms Hepburn imperiously checked him out. Thereafter, she declared, "I'm afraid I'm too tall for you, Mr Tracy."

The stocky Spencer who hailed from tough Milwaukee merely retorted, "Don't worry, Ms Hepburn, I'll soon cut you down to size." In no time at all, he did! Since opposite poles attract, they fell deeply in love and became an item.

It is said that most of the films they made together really came from their own initiative. They hit upon an idea, developed it for their individual talents and combined appeal, then sold the project to producers.

It was because Hepburn was such an aggressive and persuasive star that she managed to have these films produced, although the studio executives cared little for her after some of her films failed at the box office. *(To be concluded)*

Dessa launches an album

BY MONICA S. GUTIERREZ

AMIDST the chaos that was brewing at nearby North Greenhills that Wednesday afternoon, a petite lady with a powerful voice practiced her songs on the small stage at Country Waffles restaurant. Outside, Erap loyalists were forming a barricade to prevent the PNP contingent from arresting their idol. Oblivious to the events happening around, Dessa belted out her songs with passion. And this was only the rehearsal!

Dessa, "front act queen," and Metropop princess, was launching an album after six years of doing shows. "*Sobra akong nag*-enjoy *sa mga* corporate shows, *mga* out of town, out of the country, *tapos mga* festivals. *Parang nakalimutan kong mag*-album!" she says impishly. She has recently signed up with Star Records, under its Premium label.

Original composition

Dessa sang some cuts from her new album, titled, "Respect." Her original composition, "Mahal Kita," appears to be a hit in the making. The carrier single, "Heartbreaker" sounds like it could click with the yuppie crowd.

She also sang a very soulful rendition of "Saan Ka Man Naroroon," which was also used as the title song for the TV show of the same title. "*Kaya iyon sumikat, dahil sa akin!*"she jokes. But the number that blew the audience away was "Respect," originally sung by Aretha Franklin.

DESSA. New Star Records talent.

The voice sounded like it was coming from somewhere else, definitely not from this petite frame. There was power right from the first lyrics that boomed out of her mouth. And, she sung this song the only way it should be sung: with attitude.

DESSA/ p.C5

Young writers shine in RCBC Story Writing Contest

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

THREE young writers are the grand prize winners of the seventh RCBC Kuwentong Kalikasan Katha ng Kabataan short story writing contest. They received their awards from RCBC vice chair and CEO Alfonso S. Yuchengco III and Ms Sonia M. Roco, wife of DECS Secretary Raul Roco, during closing ceremonies at the Carlos P. Romulo auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Makati City.

Trophy

Each of the three winners received P30,000, a trophy and a scholarship package worth P25,000 from Pacific Plans, Inc. Their winning stories will be published in RCBC Nature Stories Book VIII. Their schools each received P20,000 and a trophy while their homeroom advisers received P5,000 each.

During the awarding ceremonies, the winning stories were interpreted by actors from PETA.

Ritchel A. Modal, a grade IV student of Palinta Elementary School, Kabasalan, Zamboanga del Sur, won the grand prize in the Segment A—Pilipino category for her story "Ang Latian ng Palinta." The guest speaker was Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Heherson Alvarez.

Winner of Segment B—Pilipino category is the story "Malayo Pa ang Umaga" by Jenny Pearl L. Fadul, Grade VI student of Immaculate Heart of Mary Academy, Mati, Davao Oriental. Top honors for segment B—English Category went to "Renaissance… A New Beginning" by Patricia Mae C. Cielo, Grade 7 student of Colegio de San Agustin, Makati City.

RITCHEL Modal won the grand prize in the Segment A—Pilipino category.

Activity book

RCBC also turned over copies of RCBC Nature Stories Book VIII to the DECS through Ms Sonia Roco. The RCBC Nature Stories Book is an activity book published annually in conjuction with the winnning stories of the Kuwentong Kalikasan contest. It is given free and is available in all RCBC branches nationwide.

As part of the Kuwentong Kalikasan program, RCBC conducted an art lecture and on-the-spot painting contest for Grade Six pupils of selected Makati City schools before the awarding ceremonies. Fernando Sena lectured on the "Basics of Painting" followed by an on-the-spot painting competition.

Well-known artist Mauro "Malang" Santos headed the board of judges for the painting contest, joined by veteran artist Criz Cruz, Chairman of the Saturday Group, and Sena.

The RCBC 7th Kuwentong Kalikasan Katha ng Kabataan is an annual project of RCBC in cooperation with the Department of Education, Culture and Sports. It aims to make children aware of the importance of protecting the environment. At the same time, the contest hopes to develop in young people a keen appreciation of good writing.

The program is supported by Pacific Plans, Inc., Malayan Insurance Company, Inc., Motorola, Mongol Pencil, Sanford Colorifics Oil Pastel, The Peninsula Manila, Selecta Paddle Pops and Mister Donut.

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Video documentary on elections, Pinoy-style

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AT 8:30 tonight, make it a point to watch the video documentary, "Eleksyong Pinoy: Mga Bida, Kontra, Atbp.," on the ABS-CBN Channel (21), a production of the Jesuit Communications Foundation.

The documentary special shows how elections have been conducted in the Philippines from the Commonwealth period to the recent past.

Look through the eyes of teachers, religious, social analysts and historians as they try to make sense of the way we vote our leaders into office, and what makes it unique.

"Eleksyong Pinoy" is written by Pete Lacaba and hosted by Danny Javier as Pidro. It features interviews with Jaime Cardinal Sin, Joe Concepcion, Christian Monsod, Bishop Francisco Claver, Haydee Yorac, Randy David and Senate President Nene Pimentel, among others.

Debate format

Ongoing on ABC-5 at 10:30 p.m. nightly until May 11 is "Tapatan's" special election edition, with a debate format that pits candidates for local posts in Metro Manila against each other.

Among the debates to be moderated by Jay Sonza is "Thrilla in Manila," a three-cornered fight among incumbent Lito Atienza, ex-mayor Fred Lim and Rep. Amado Bagatsing.

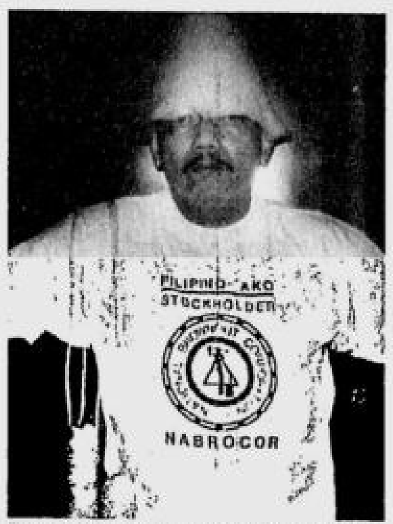
Other "bouts:" former Makati mayor Jojo Binay vs Edu Manzano, Quezon City mayoralty candidates Sonny Belmonte vs Rudy Fernandez, and Caloocan bets Mayor Rey Malonzo vs Rep. Baby Asistio.

Plus: Miriam Defensor Santiago vs Winnie Monsod, Joker Arroyo vs Ping Lacson, and Teddy Boy Locsin vs Armida Siguion-Reyna!

'Scamp's Adventure' on video

Popular canine cartoon characters Lady and the Tramp now have a cute and cuddly scion named Scamp. The new family is featured in "Lady and the Tramp 2: Scamp's Adventure," now out on video (at all Video City, Astrovision and SM outlets).

The video feature has the mischievous Scamp constantly being sent to the doghouse by his folks. Longing for freedom, he ventures far from home and meets a lovely stray named Angel.



DANNY Javier as Pidro hosts "Eleksyong Pinoy."

She introduces Scamp to the Junkyard Dogs, led by the streetwise Buster. Scamp finds himself torn between the world of freedom and adventure, and the family he loves.

Westlife on 'By Request'

Every Friday this month, the Westlife boy group will be featured on ABC-5's "By Request" (at 7:30 p.m.). This will lead up to the group's Manila performance on May 29.

Westlife is made up of Shane Filan, Nicky Byrne, Mark Feehily, Kian Egan and Bryan McFadden. They have sold 10 million copies of their first two albums worldwide.

Their first seven singles have gone straight to the top of the UK pop charts, and their eighth, their remake of Billy Joel's "Uptown Girl," is also turning out to be a hit.

Documentary awards

The jurors have chosen the five finalists for the documentary awards which will be given to the winning filmmakers as part of the 19th Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP) annual affair tonight at the Manila Hotel. Aside from the statuette and plaques, a cash award of P10,000 will be awarded to the filmmaker for the first prize, P7,000 for the second prize and P5,000 for the thrid prize. Two other nominated filmmakers will be granted P3,000 each.

The five nominated entries are "Japayuki" by Ditsi Carolino and Nana Buxani, "Marsh Lands" by Nonoy Regalado, "Dystania" by Carol Garcia and Candy Cantada, "Dream Weavers" by Fruto Corre and "Siglo Filipino" by Butch Nolasco.

Entertainment industry braces for possible writers' strike

By ANTHONY BREZNICAN

LOS ANGELES—With less than two days left in the Hollywood writers contract, negotiators resumed talks Monday, hoping to avert a walkout that would halt TV and movie production.

Demands

Representatives of the Writers Guild of America and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers met throughout the weekend but ended talks Sunday without bridging a $100 million gap between their respective demands.

With both sides participating in a news blackout, it was unclear whether they had made any progress over the weekend or when talks started up again Monday morning. The current contract expires at midnight Tuesday and if talks break off, a strike authorization vote and a walkout could take place within a few days.

CBS writer Doug Lieblein isn't willing to strike at any cost.

The real cliffhanger for audiences is whether a strike will keep their favorite television comedies and dramas off the air in the fall.

If the writers walk out, the first victims would be daily soap operas and late-night variety shows, followed by sitcoms and hour-long dramas if a strike drags on.

Studio officials and WGA leaders have said they are willing to compromise—but only a little.

Notion

"The notion, which has been offered by some, that the gap between us can possibly be bridged by simply meeting in the middle is ill-informed and, unfortunately, a nonstarter for us," DreamWorks SKG studio head Jeffrey Katzenberg said.

Walkout fears have strained Hollywood for months, with studios preparing for a dead zone in production by rushing film shoots and trying, mostly in vain, to stockpile scripts.

Not only is Tuesday the last day of the writers union's contract for its 11,000 members, but agreements for the two performers' unions—the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists—expire on June 30.

Back-to-back strikes could devastate the entertainment industry by delaying the TV season and new movie releases even more.

TV networks say they may rely on more reality programming to make up for a lack of scripted shows, and movie studios may turn to releasing more foreign films or independently made pictures to compensate for the shortage of Hollywood-produced fare.

Disagreements

Talks between the writers and the alliance began Jan. 22 but halted March 1 amid disagreements over how much residual pay studios owe writers when films or TV shows are broadcast overseas or rerun domestically. The writers also want more money from videocassettes and DVDs.

Negotiations resumed April 17.

John Wells, president of the western unit of the writers' union and a writer-producer of the TV series "ER" and "The West Wing," has said Hollywood writers earned a total of about $1.2 billion in 2000 and are demanding a $99.7 million increase over three years.

The producers' alliance, however, has said that raising the minimum pay would also raise the scale for top writers, amounting to an actual increase of $227.4 million over three years.

Studios say they can't afford that in today's burgeoning entertainment world.

"Costs keep going up but the ability to achieve the kind of audience levels necessary to cover those costs seemingly is going down because of all the competition," said Walt Disney Co. president Robert Iger.

Doug Lieblein, a CBS writer, said he doesn't agree with all of the union's demands and, with a wife and infant son to support, he isn't willing to strike at any cost.

Worst-case scenario

"We're all saving our money to prepare for the worst-case scenario," Lieblein said. "We'd be stupid not to." Behind-the-scenes workers also are planning for the possibility of a strike.

Costume-maker John David Ridge, who did wardrobe on the film "Charlie's Angels" and the upcoming "Spider-Man," is looking for business on Broadway and said he would have to lay off 18-25 seamstresses and tailors if there were a strike.

A recent study commissioned by Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan found that prolonged strikes would cost the area's economy as much as $6.9 billion and could result in the loss of around 130,000 jobs, pushing the city's unemployment rate from 4.8 percent to 6.9 percent. *AP*

Dessa...

(From page C4)

Dessa feels that she has already made a mark, however small, on the music industry. But she wants to go further than that. What she wants now is a hit.

"*Iyung dati ko*, 'Paano', *natutugtog siya sa* radio, *pero hanggang doon lang. Pero iyung talagang* hit, *wala pa.*

"*Sabi nga nila, di daw ako pang-masa.*" Dessa concedes. In spite of her *kalog* nature and approachable personality, the majority of music listeners just cannot appreciate the kind of music she delivers.

"*Mahilig akong makinig ng iba-ibang* types of music, *pero* mostly *mga* black music *talaga, kaya siguro na*-influence *nila ako.*" Dessa lists mostly black singers as her influences : Dianne Reeves, Aretha Franklin, and lately Destiny's Child.

Premium label

Luckily for Dessa, Star Records came up with the Premium Label "*Para nga daw sa mga totoong* singers. *May mga* singers *kasi na tine*-take advantage *nila* (*ang* popularily *nila*), so *gagawa sila ng* album. *Siyempre kakagatin ng masa iyan.*" Was she referring to teen idol Judy Ann Santos, whose album was an instant hit? "No *naman.* Friend *ko iyon*!" Dessa declared.

Dessa has never had formal voice training. "*Hindi sa pagmamayabang, pero* it comes out naturally," she says. She muses that perhaps she got her voice from her mother, who is a frustrated singer.

She has survived many heartaches over the men she has gotten involved with in the past. Dessa reveals that she falls in love easily.

Single mother

You wouldn't know from her appearance that she is already a mother. She has a four-year-old daughter, Noshka, whom she is raising alone, save for the help of her mother.

She and Noshka form a mutual admiration club. When Noshka watches her mother perform, she is her number one fan.

She says that she talks to her daughter in a straightforward manner and always tells her the truth. "*Sabi ko, 'Huwag ka maghanap ng tatay!'*" This early, Dessa is teaching her daughter to be self-reliant. "*Sabihin niya, 'Hanap na lang tayo ng Papa!' (sagot ko) 'Di natin kailangan iyan, anak! Darating din iyan.' Ganyan kami mag-usap.*"

Dessa does plan to settle down someday. "*Siyempre gusto ko naman magkapapa iyung anak ko. Ayoko namang* forever single *ako. Pag dumating na iyung* right man, *iyon na iyon!*"

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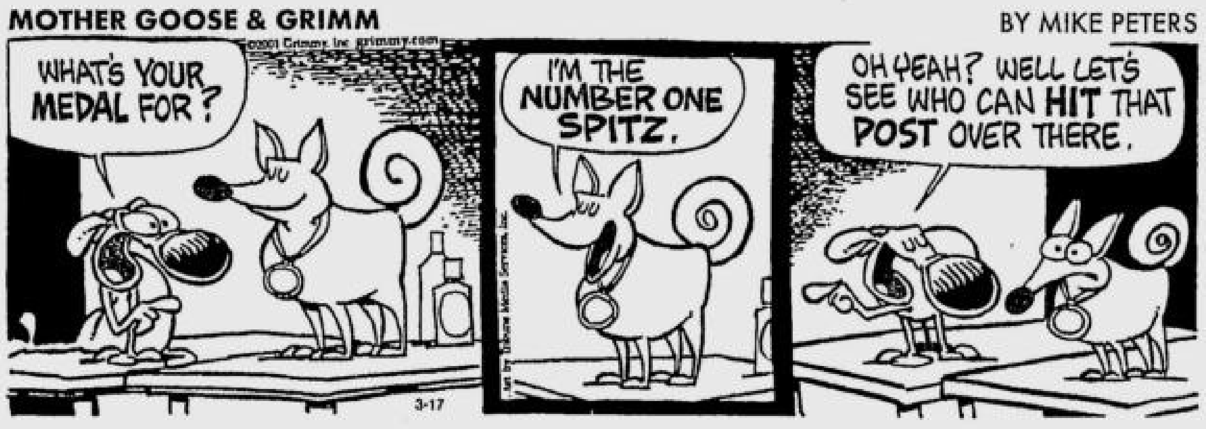
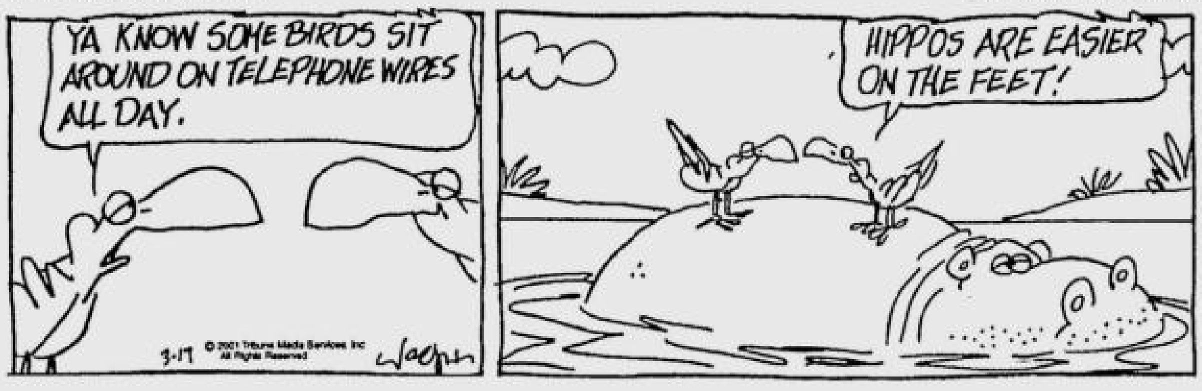
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM
BY MIKE PETERS


©2001 Grimmy, Inc. grimmy.com
WHAT'S YOUR MEDAL FOR?
I'M THE NUMBER ONE SPITZ.
OH YEAH? WELL LET'S SEE WHO CAN HIT THAT POST OVER THERE.
3-17

ANIMAL CRACKER
BY FRED WAGNER


YA KNOW SOME BIRDS SIT AROUND ON TELEPHONE WIRES ALL DAY.
HIPPOS ARE EASIER ON THE FEET!
3-17
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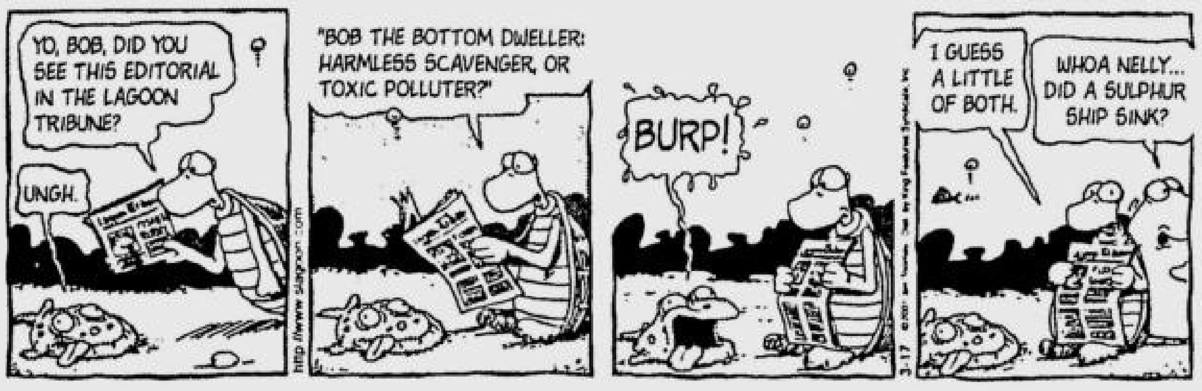
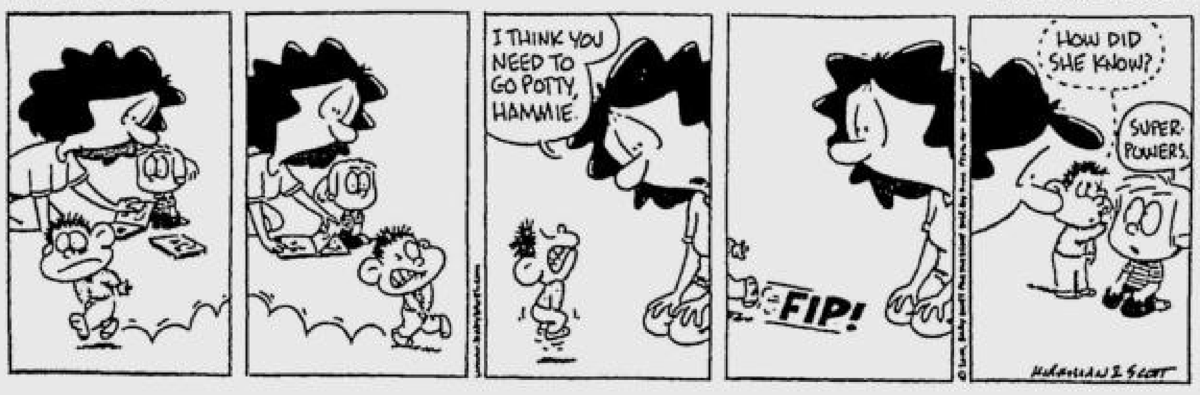
Wagner

SHERMAN'S LAGOON
BY JIM TOOMEY


YO, BOB, DID YOU SEE THIS EDITORIAL IN THE LAGOON TRIBUNE?
UNGH.
"BOB THE BOTTOM DWELLER: HARMLESS SCAVENGER, OR TOXIC POLLUTER?"
BURP!
I GUESS A LITTLE OF BOTH.
WHOA NELLY... DID A SULPHUR SHIP SINK?
http://www.slagoon.com
3-17

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


I THINK YOU NEED TO GO POTTY, HAMMIE.
FIP!
HOW DID SHE KNOW?
SUPER-POWERS.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE
BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tammy Wynette, Alice Faye, Tyrone Power, James, Beard, Michael Palin

Happy Birthday: Better start to re-evaluate your objectives. You may have been fooling yourself in the past and must reconsider what you really want to achieve. Once you have made up your mind, it will be simple to move in the right direction. So prepare to make the necessary changes to acquire the life you've been longing for. Your numbers: 13, 27, 31, 35, 44, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Romantic encounters will be stressful. Mixing business with pleasure might be fun but would be highly dangerous.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Business prospects look enticing. You can expect to receive recognition for your accomplishments. Don't reveal too much about your personal life to those you work with.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't be reluctant to make advances if there is someone who interests you. Join clubs that are geared toward physical activity. You will get back in shape and make new friends.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Changes in your home may be upsetting. Talk to friends who can ease your mind and help you see a positive side to your situation. You may have to think about moving on.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Write a beautiful love letter to your mate. Your warm words should lead to a committed relationship. You will have a great day if you say what you feel and follow it up with romantic actions

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will have a good idea for making extra cash. Put your thoughts into action and draw on the rest of your family to help. Children will feel good if you include them in your plans.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll be very sensitive today. You mustn't allow others to take advantage of your vulnerability. Talk to a close friend about your personal intentions before you decide to take action.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Start taking better care of yourself. A combination of worry and poor diet will result in minor ailments or stomach problems. Arguments will evolve if you are too pushy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Romantic interaction is possible if you travel or participate in group activities. Investments should include art objects or purchases that would be considered a luxury.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Put your efforts into home-improvement projects but be sure that you have the approval of your family before you go ahead. You need to keep busy to avoid conflicts.

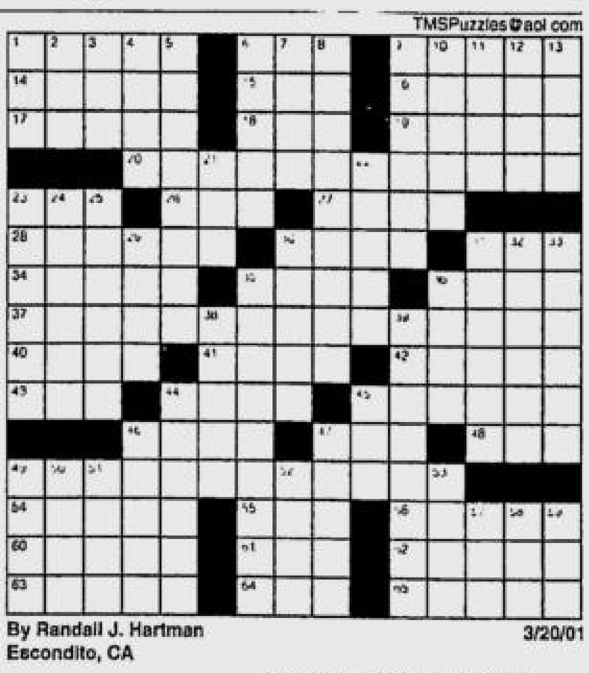
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You should consider a pleasure trip to take your mind off the dilemmas you've been facing at work. The change of atmosphere will do you a world of good.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Limitations will set you back. Extravagance and overindulgence will be tempting. Be careful not to ruffle feathers before having all the facts.

Birthday Baby: You are open, intuitive and creative. You need to be able to try new things and develop your own ideas. You are complex, precise and patient. Your ability to build something from scratch will lead to your success.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Randall J. Hartman
Escondito, CA

3/20/01

ACROSS
1 Composer of "Weasels Ripped My Flesh"
6 Outer edge
9 __ metabolism
14 Fiery felony
15 Altar vow
16 Former name of Hagatna, Guam
17 Ground grain
18 Earth: pref.
19 Puts in order
20 Like 49A in baseball
23 Beret or beanie
26 Strike
27 Uris or Spinks
28 Up and about
30 Sly cry
31 Lowly mil. rank
34 Sling mud
35 Assns.
36 Aspersion
37 React to 49A
40 Summer coolers
41 Plenty
42 Asia Minor region
43 Owns
44 Glance over
45 Anaheim nine
46 Lit. collection
47 In favor of
48 Driving area
49 Message from the mound
54 Tracker's trail
55 Tried to get elected
56 Shallow-water hunter
60 Establish
61 Explosive letters
62 Argentine plain
63 Willful injuries
64 You betcha!
65 Sidled

DOWN
1 Sharp turn
2 Part of ETA
3 Greek letter
4 Ritzy
5 Offbeat main character
6 Correct
7 Something to think about
8 Work on a side job
9 "Hungarian Sketches" composer
10 Once more
11 Carried a tune
12 Egyptian cross
13 Final position
21 Tonic's partner
22 Thickheaded
23 Moorish fortress
24 Spanish fleet
25 "Five Easy __"
29 Fifth Avenue store
30 "Entertaining Mr. Sloane" playwright
31 Mercury or Saturn
32 Useless
33 Create a fold
35 Irish author of "Two Lovely Beasts"
36 Trudge along
38 Particulars
39 Game where tens top kings
44 Gulps of liquor
45 Actor Carney
46 Nautical direction
47 Pub orders
49 Attention-getting sound
50 Until
51 Lion's comment
52 Glass piece
53 Pinned down
57 Tattered T-shirt
58 Undivided
59 Head dip

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

H	E	L	M	■	T	A	M	P	■	O	N	S	E	T
A	Q	U	A	■	F	L	A	L	■	C	O	I	L	S
R	U	N	S	■	M	I	R	A	■	A	R	N	I	F
K	I	C	K	U	P	A	S	T	O	R	M	■	■	■
S	P	H	E	R	E	■	H	O	P	I	■	P	B	S
■	■	■	D	I	S	C	■	■	I	N	S	E	R	T
A	R	M	■	S	T	R	I	K	E	A	D	E	A	L
S	H	E	A	■	■	A	D	O	■	■	I	N	G	E
H	I	T	T	H	E	B	O	O	K	S	■	S	A	O
E	N	A	M	O	R	■	■	K	I	T	H	■	■	■
N	O	I	■	M	A	S	S	■	T	A	Y	L	O	R
■	■	■	B	A	T	T	H	E	B	R	E	E	Z	E
R	E	T	A	G	■	I	O	N	A	■	N	O	O	N
I	R	E	N	E	■	F	R	O	G	■	A	N	N	E
M	A	N	E	S	■	F	E	S	S	■	S	E	E	S

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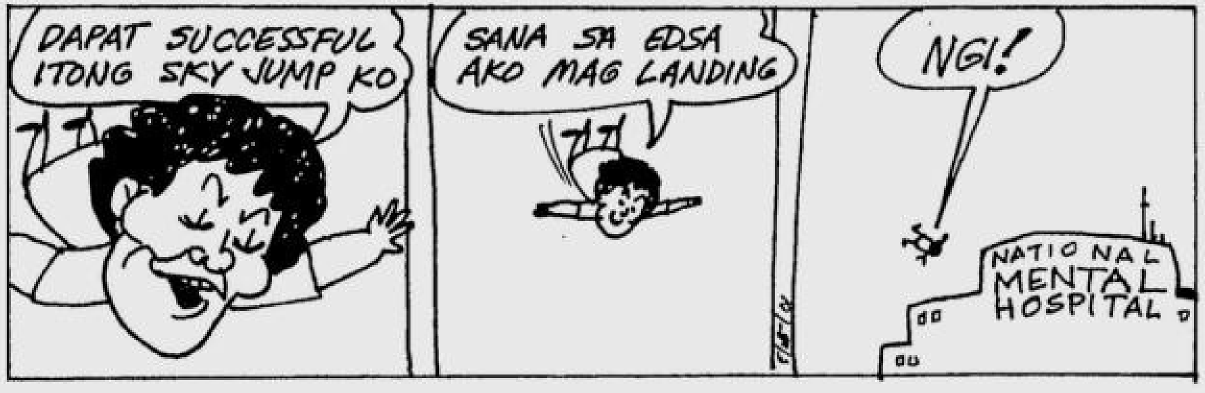
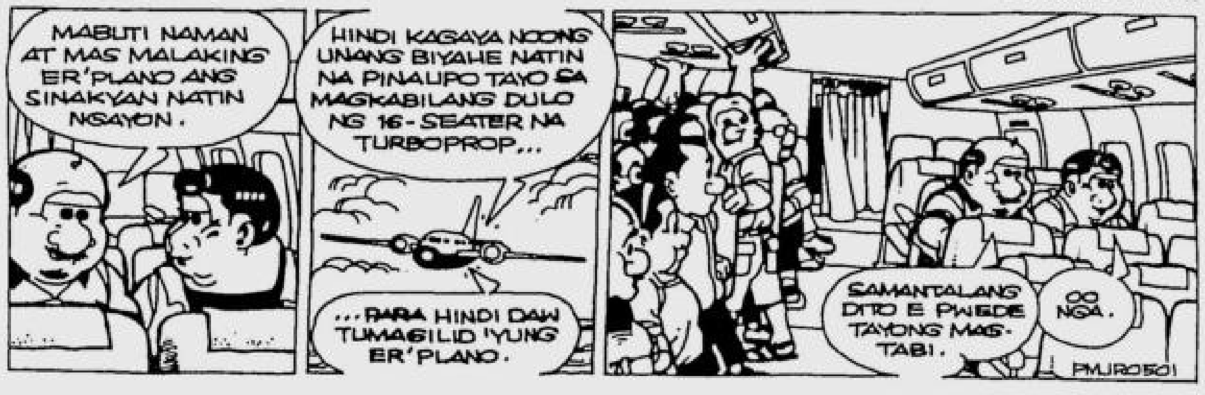
3/20/01

ANSWER ON MONDAY

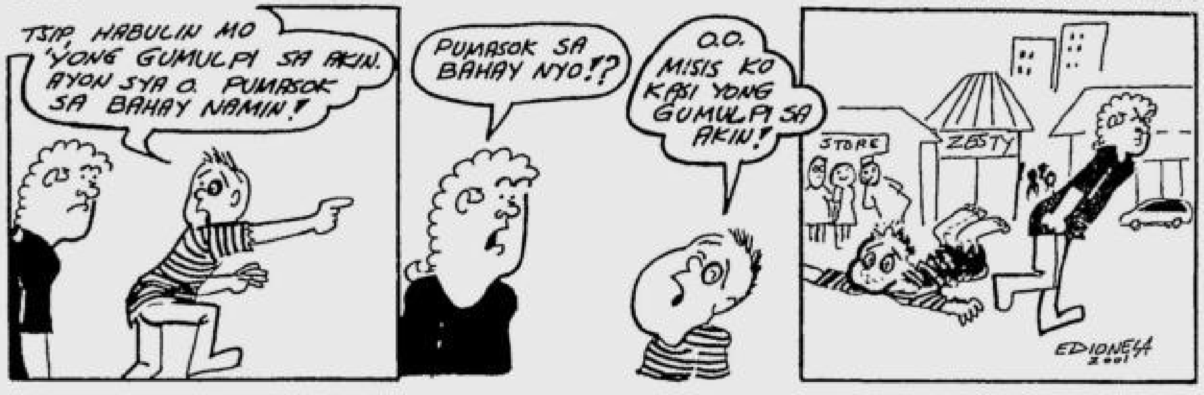
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


DAPAT SUCCESSFUL ITONG SKY JUMP KO
SANA SA EDSA AKO MAG LANDING
NGI!
NATIONAL MENTAL HOSPITAL

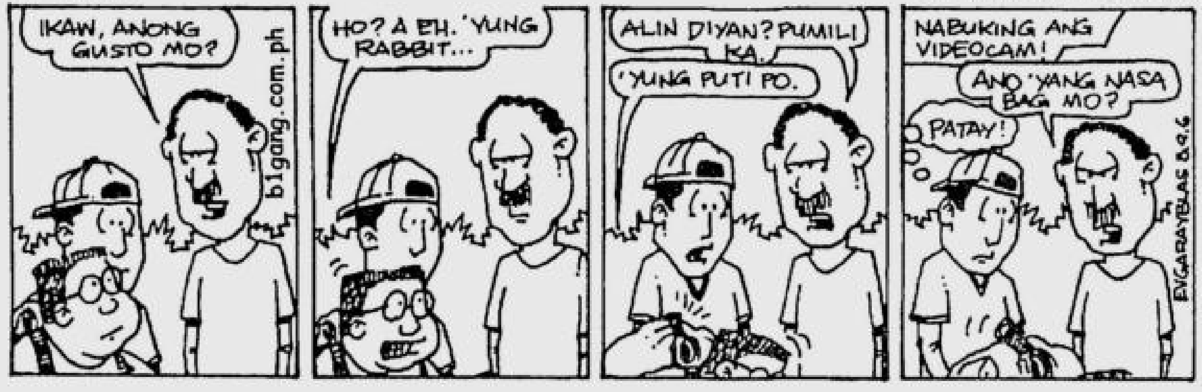
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


MABUTI NAMAN AT MAS MALAKING ER'PLANO ANG SINAKYAN NATIN NGAYON.
HINDI KAGAYA NOONG UNANG BIYAHE NATIN NA PINAUPO TAYO SA MAGKABILANG DULO NG 16-SEATER NA TURBOPROP...
...~~PARA~~ HINDI DAW TUMAGILID 'YUNG ER'PLANO.
SAMANTALANG DITO E PWEDE TAYONG MAG-TABI.
OO NGA.
PMJR0501

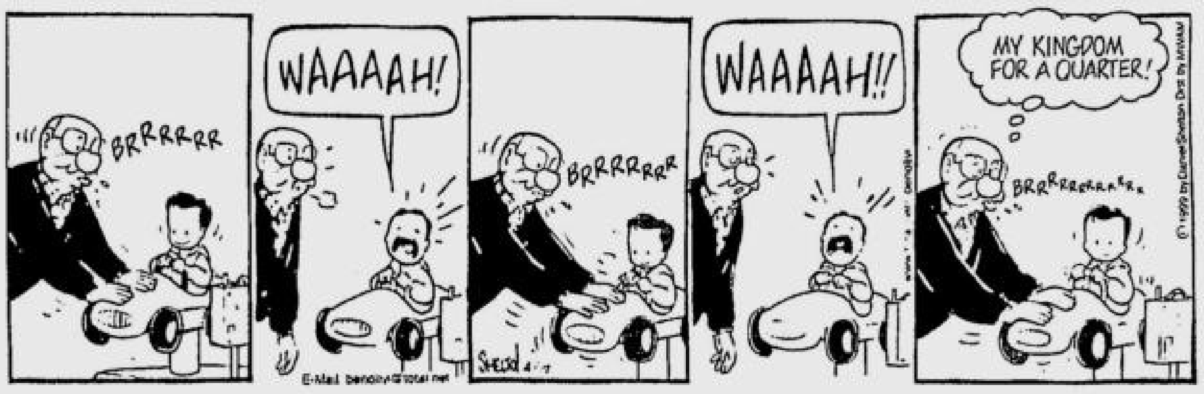
SIMO
BY EDGAR DIONELA


TSIP, HABULIN MO 'YONG GUMULPI SA AKIN. AYON SYA O. PUMASOK SA BAHAY NAMIN!
PUMASOK SA BAHAY NYO!?
O.O. MISIS KO KASI YONG GUMULPI SA AKIN!
STORE
ZESTY
EDIONELA 2001

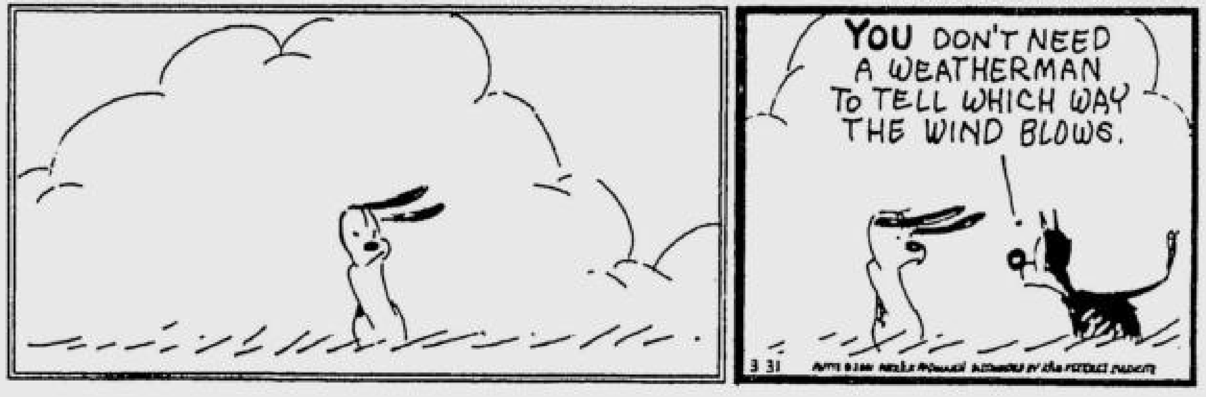
B1 GANG
BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


IKAW, ANONG GUSTO MO?
b1gang.com.ph
HO? A EH. 'YUNG RABBIT...
ALIN DIYAN? PUMILI KA.
'YUNG PUTI PO.
NABUKING ANG VIDEOCAM!
ANO 'YANG NASA BAG MO?
PATAY!
EVGARAYBLAS

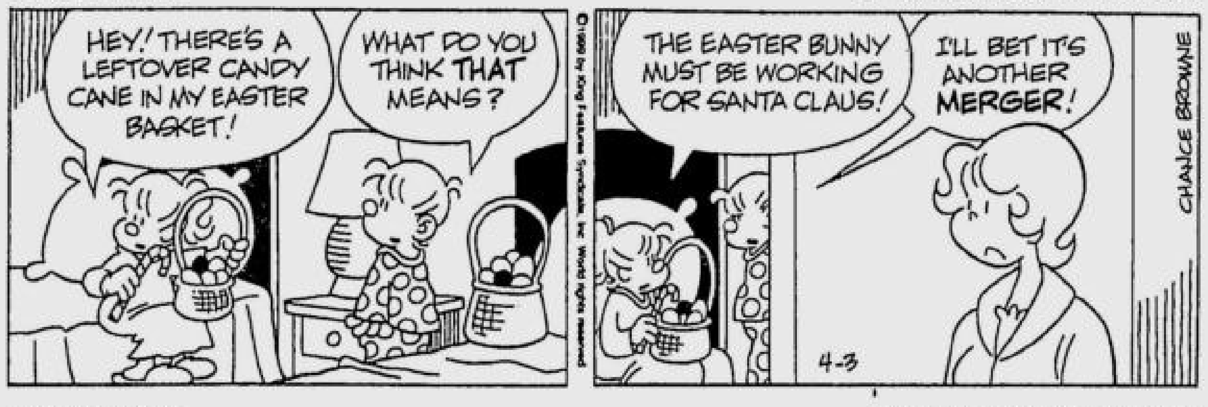
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


BRRRRRR
WAAAAH!
BRRRRRRR
WAAAAH!!
MY KINGDOM FOR A QUARTER!
BRRRRRRRRRRR
E-Mail: benDaily@total.net
Sheldon

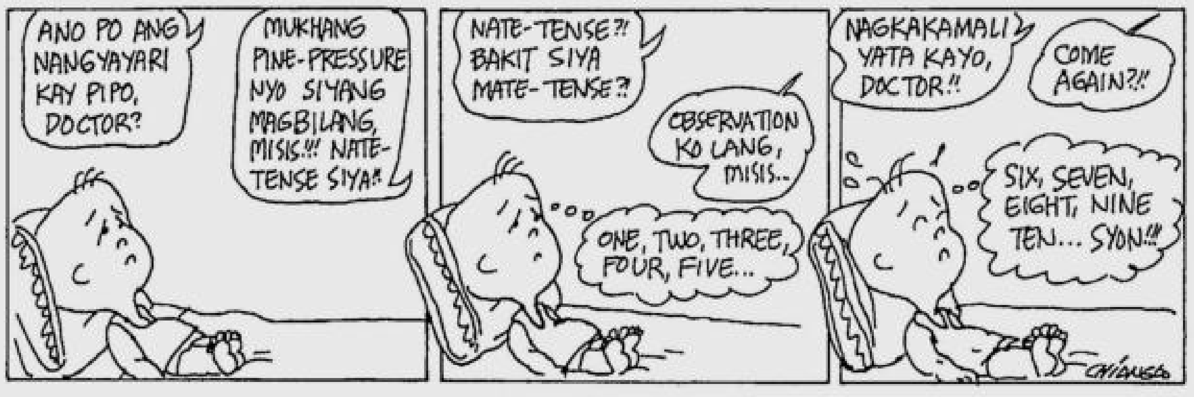
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


YOU DON'T NEED A WEATHERMAN TO TELL WHICH WAY THE WIND BLOWS.
3 31

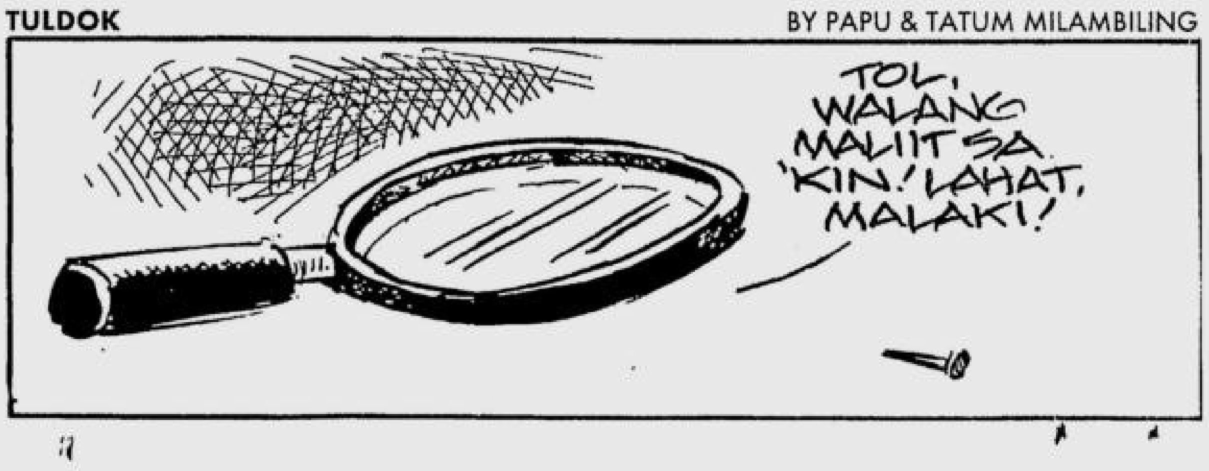
HI AND LOIS
BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


HEY! THERE'S A LEFTOVER CANDY CANE IN MY EASTER BASKET!
WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT MEANS?
THE EASTER BUNNY MUST BE WORKING FOR SANTA CLAUS!
I'LL BET IT'S ANOTHER MERGER!
4-3
CHANCE BROWNE

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANO PO ANG NANGYAYARI KAY PIPO, DOCTOR?
MUKHANG PINE-PRESSURE NYO SIYANG MAGBILANG, MISIS!!! NATE-TENSE SIYA!!
NATE-TENSE?! BAKIT SIYA MATE-TENSE?!
OBSERVATION KO LANG, MISIS..
ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR, FIVE...
NAGKAKAMALI YATA KAYO, DOCTOR!!
COME AGAIN?!!
SIX, SEVEN, EIGHT, NINE TEN... SYON!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK
BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


TOL, WALANG MALIIT SA 'KIN! LAHAT, MALAKI!

Loacker
QUADRATINI
Doritos
Snapple
Ferrero Rocher

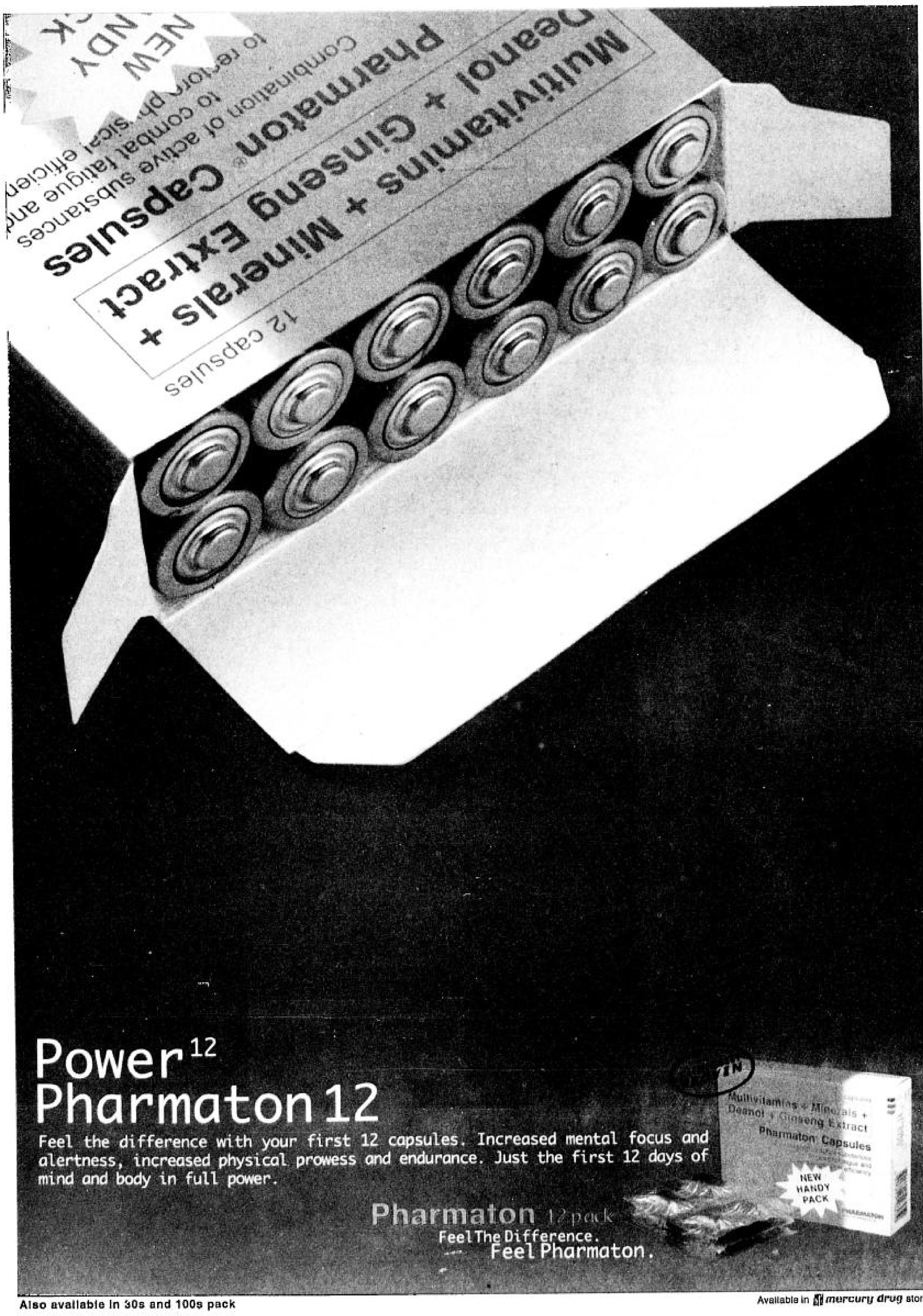
At the Snack Exchange

the best gifts for Mom
May 13th

Best Buy
P100
Basket of assorted goodies

SM
DEPARTMENT STORE
We've got it all for you!

QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PIÑAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU


NEW HANDY PACK
Multivitamins + Minerals + Deanol + Ginseng Extract
Pharmaton® Capsules
Combination of active substances to combat fatigue and to restore physical efficiency
12 capsules

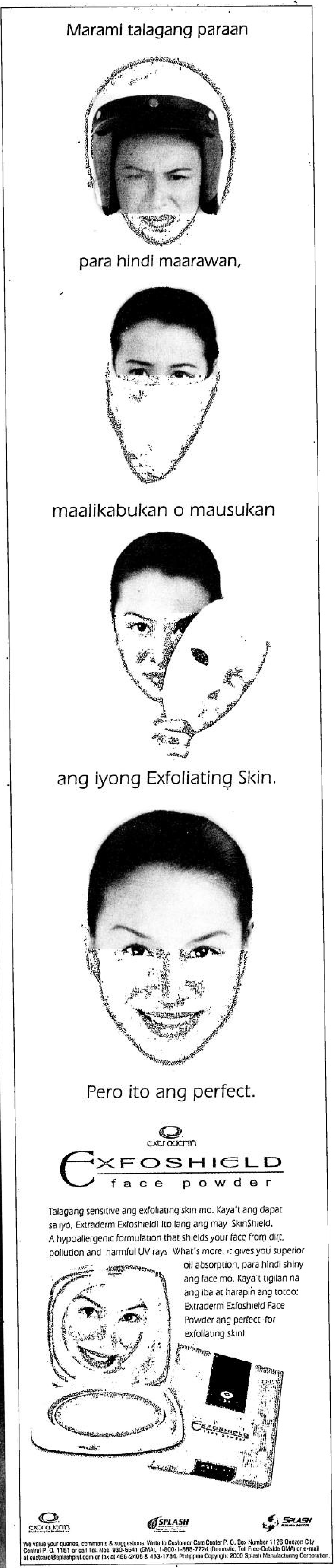
Power[12]
Pharmaton 12

Feel the difference with your first 12 capsules. Increased mental focus and alertness, increased physical prowess and endurance. Just the first 12 days of mind and body in full power.

Pharmaton 12 pack
Feel The Difference.
Feel Pharmaton.

Also available in 30s and 100s pack

Available in mercury drug stores


Marami talagang paraan

para hindi maarawan,

maalikabukan o mausukan

ang iyong Exfoliating Skin.

Pero ito ang perfect.

extraderm
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Video animation works by young filmmakers screened today

By Rica Arevalo

YOUNG animators are premiering their works at Saturday, 2 p.m. today at the UP Film Center. They are the new graduates of the Art and Animation Workshop for Children and Teens 2001 sponsored by Pinoy Animagination and the UP Film Center.

Storyboards

I went to visit the newly-built animation room at the UP Film Center last week. Storyboards and animation posters were posted all over the walls. Children and teens aged 12-17 were scattered all over the place, busy drawing their artworks, handling digital cameras, or capturing images in their computers. It was a place where youthful creativity reigned.

Nikki Calayan, 12, was making "Falling Cats," a mix of claymation, drawings, and pixelation. It was like a music video with gibberish, English and Tagalog sounds, with the children chanting "Si Jose..." She said, "Actually, I want to be a zoologist but I wanted to animate as a hobby." She explained the process of making her film: "First we started making a song. We thought of what the song would make us feel and then we started animating," said the Grade 6 student at St. Scholastica's College.

Monique Galvezon, 13, teamed up with Samantha Magahum, 12, to make a collage of drawings, using different animals. The two wanted to do weird drawings to confuse the audience.

"Our mentors said that they started animating when they were already old. Now that we are still young, we hope to gain more experience and further develop our skills and talents," added Monique.

First year high school Samantha complained, "It's fun but sometimes it is very hard. We need to work even if we are already tired."

Scholar

On the other hand, Philippine High School of the Arts scholar Eisa Jocson, 15, said, "In this workshop, I am free to do whatever I want. In my school, we have standards to follow, *dapat maganda, dapat maayos.* It limits my imagination."

She is making a 3D composite assemblage using found objects with Sheila Nocete, 15, and Sabine Fortin, 12. Sabine earlier won honorable mention at the Gawad CCP for Alternative Film and Video for "Mansanas."

"Time is precious. *Pag nag*-drawing *ka, nakikita mo kaagad ang* results. *Dito, hindi mo alam kung saan ka papunta hangga't di mo pa natatapos ang* film *mo,*" shared Sheila. Their film is very stylized and dark showing a unique doll sleeping and dreaming, while images of women popped out.

The last group was composed of Ruth Gadia, 15, Leslie delos Reyes, 17, Saree Gonzales, 16 and Amica Nocete, 16. Most of them were experimental artists, products of the St. Scho grade school's "Experimental Art" program. In the workshop, they were asked to shift their paradigm to come up with a very cartoon-like film.

Leslie said, "We think of pink, flowers, hearts and teddy bears." Saree, who hails from St. Claire School and was a Gawad CCP second place awardee for "Isip Bata," added, "We began listening to Britney Spears songs."

Patience

Their film was trying to prove that their groupmate was a lesbian. "We learned to value patience because it's 30 frames per second," added Amica, whose film "Subjugation" also won second place at the Gawad CCP.

These teens devoted their summer to study animation and the products of their imagination will be unveiled today. Another animation workshop for adults and children at the UP Film Center will begin on May 9. For more information, call 926-3640.

LESLIE delos Reyes (right) and Elsa Jocson (standing) prepare their talent for a cartoon-like film.

GENTXT

May Gig Guide

"15 Minutes", Advanced Screening
(In cooperation with DWTM 89.9 Magic)
A fast-paced action thriller starring Robert de Niro and Edward Burns to keep you at the edge of your seats. First 40 GENTXTers to go to Harrison Communications starting May 7 will get free tickets.
>> SM Megamall Cinema 11 - 7:30 PM*
8

Crossover Live
Jaya will heat up the summer concert scene with a musical show at the Mandarin Oriental. First five GENTXTers to go Harrison Communications starting May 9 will get a pair of concert invites.
>> Mandarin Oriental - 7:30 PM*
10

"The Mummy Returns", Advanced Screenings
(In cooperation with DWRX 93.1)
The much awaited adventure-comedy sequel to the 1999 hit "The Mummy" stars Brendan Fraser. First 40 GENTXTers to go to Harrison Communications starting May 14 will get free tickets.
>> SM Megamall Cinema 3 - 7:30 PM, May 15*
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15&17

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Have a blast as hot celebrity hosts and the country's top live acts welcome another year of GENTXT with top-caliber entertainment. Cool freebies, free-flowing beer and sizzling raffle prizes complete the party.
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>> The Village, Cebu - 9:00 PM, May 18**
18&19
The GENTXT Anniversary Party turns up the temperature in Baguio and storms through Davao with more bands and celebrities. Non-stop entertainment, raffle prizes, freebies and free drinks fuel the night.
>> Nevada Square, Baguio – 9:00 PM, May 19**
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ANDREWS. Continues writing children's books.

Julie Andrews' dauntless optimism helps her cope with loss of singing voice

By Bob Thomas

LOS ANGELES—When Julie Andrews appeared in a recent PBS tribute to Broadway musicals, she joined in the "Rain in Spain" dance from "My Fair Lady." For an astonishing moment, she appeared to be singing a couple of lines.

The audience erupted in affectionate applause.

"Everybody said, 'My God, her voice is back!'" she recalled, adding: "It's nonexistent, in terms of singing. There is singing and singing, and that was singing-talking. I was literally saying 'On the plain, on the plain . . .' as low as I possibly could. That I could fake. Ask me to sing 'I Could Have Danced All Night' all the way through, and you would be horrified."

Surgery

In June 1997, Andrews underwent surgery to remove non-cancerous throat nodules, and the operation left her unable to sing. She sued two doctors and a New York hospital, claiming she hadn't been warned of the surgery's risk. The suit was settled for an undisclosed amount in September.

"The voice is, I dare to say, getting a little better," she says. "My speaking voice is a lot better than it was. There's some hope that there is movement in the cords behind what scar tissue is there. . . . I doubt very much if (my singing voice) will ever be what it was; it couldn't be with my age and everything. I'm still hoping I'll get some of it back. I'm very optimistic."

Her sunny optimism and bell-like voice singing such tunes as "Spoonful of Sugar" and "A Few of My Favorite Things" helped make her the most popular Hollywood star in the mid-1960s.

Children's books

The loss of her singing voice has not curtailed her activity. Andrews has appeared on the recent Academy and Screen Actors Guild awards shows and on a high-rated US CBS broadcasting network movie with James Garner. And she continues writing children's books, sometimes in collaboration with daugh-

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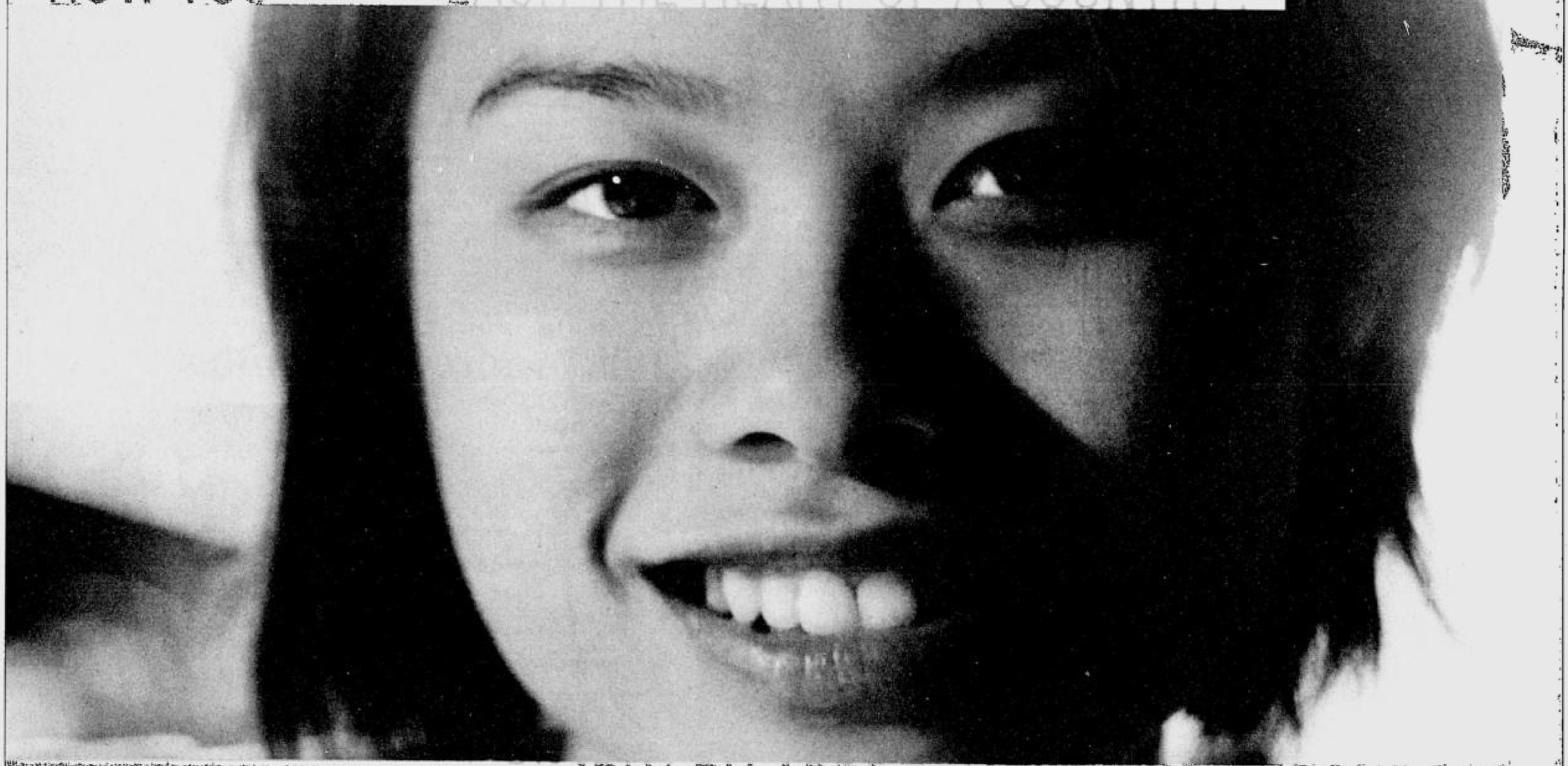

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Star Cinema's wholesome films click with viewers

MUHLACH AND JIMENEZ. Their current starrer has been enthusiastically received by the viewing public.

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN Filipino movies started experiencing tough times some years ago, many producers' survival tactics was to resort to making cheapie, quickie sex flicks that required minimal capitalization but could rely on a small but loyal audience of film voyeurs.

Erotic cavort

Later, when even the voyeurs had gotten tired of watching dim unknowns in full, erotic cavort, some producers upped the ante by spending more money on sex films that starred heretofore "wholesome" actresses who opted for a sexy change of image to energize their languishing movie careers.

These movies were better-produced, but the film industry's heavy output of erotic productions made some parents and educators lose faith in movie people's sense of responsibility to their audience, prompting them to call for a clampdown on excessively sexy movies.

Even the "classy" sex dramas have not been patronized as enthusiastically as before, suggesting that the viewing public has also had its fill of them.

Tactic

What are movie producers to do now? If even sex no longer sells, what other tactics can they resort to in order to survive these trying times?

They could take their cue from the happy experience of Star Cinema, one of the few local studios that have steadfastly refused to go the bold route in the movies they make.

Happily, the viewing public has been rewarding Star Cinema's relative focus on inspiring movies with its enthusiastic patronage.

If movie attendance can be taken as endorsement, the good showing at the tills of the film production company's products indicates that moviegoers appreciate its decision *not* to follow the line of least resistance and add to the glut of erotic flicks on our screens.

Biggest success

The movie studio's biggest success last year was Laurice Guillen's family drama, "Tanging Yaman," which had a strong spiritual content. The film's exceptional showing at the box office has been marched by the critical acclaim and awards it's been receiving.

Moviegoers and reviewers don't often agree, but this is one instance when they've come to a meeting of minds regarding the importance of bucking the bold trend and balancing it with movies that espouse positive values.

Last week, Star Cinema came up with its latest production, Joey Reyes' "Narinig Mo Na Ba Ang L8est?" starring Aga Muhlach and Joyce Jimenez. The presence of Jimenez in this movie is particularly instructive because, up to this point, all she has done are sexy movies.

Current film

In Star Cinema's current film, however, Jimenez has changed her image and generally kept her clothes on for the first time in her career—and yet "Narinig" is turning out to be one of her biggest hits to date!

The movie's exceptional showing at the tills does not only affirm male lead Aga Muhlach's drawing power, but also indicates that many moviegoers approve of Jimenez's decision to opt for a less exploitatively erotic projection on the screen.

Endorsement

Other producers have been impressed by this development and the viewing public's clear endorsement of wholesome movies. Indeed, a major producer of bold movies is scouting around for less erotic material, and another has launched a search for wholesome young starlets to topbill a series of upbeat youth films scheduled for production this year.

Thanks to studios like Star Cinema for showing the way, and for proving that there *is* a better way to make movies that appeal, not to moviegoers' basest impulses, but to their yearning for more positive, inspiring films.

In show biz and politics, image is everything

By Veron Dionisio

THE MASS media have always played a key role in political campaigns. In this postmodern age of images and spectacles, media has the power to highlight political ideologies and sociopolitical agenda by engendering a system of signs and symbols, rather than tackling substance, which is essential in developing a more informed electorate.

The risky part of this system is the lack of space and time given to more critical and meaningful discussions of issues and problems

Commodities

Political image-makers seem to agree that the more superficial the treatment of election materials is, the more attention they get. That's why we have battles of television images of political candidates being sold like common consumer commodities, packaged like bath soaps, and launched like new stars on the entertainment block.

In advertising, packaging a product is a tedious task depending largely on the belief that images, symbols, and signs can say a thousand words. Messages are created subliminally and transmitted subconsciously. Advertising plays with the imagination and tickles our fantasies.

It rarely is concerned with social transformation in more beneficial ways and contributes greatly to the commodification of desire. It creates demands for products that are not necessities, thereby developing excessive materialism. In a consumer society where consumption is very high, advertising has the power to determine social identities based on the images, styles and fashion it promotes.

Disturbing

That's why, when political advertisements assume the characteristics of commercial advertising, they become really disturbing. When political candidates start churning out all those familiar words of persuasion, acting like commercial talents, there's this feeling of surreality and uneasiness as we view them.

When a respected economist and academician who's running for a senatorial seat begins to act in a scripted manner, or the shortest man in the Senate starts to dribble a ball and acts like a traditional comic talent selling a detergent soap, we begin to wonder if they even had second thoughts when they were asked to project those images.

Why they would rather create an image rather than be their usual selves says a lot about the kind of political culture prevailing in our collective consciousness as a nation. Not only has our politics become a big showcase of show biz spectacles and consumer product images, but our culture has become so fragmented that it seems difficult now to distinguish myth from truth or reality.

In show business, image can be everything. The fabricated identity has to be projected to attract a niche following. That's why we have the superstar, megastar, star for all seasons, diamond star, pop diva, songbird, concert king, soap opera queen, etc! Those titles are all part of image-making strategies, to establish a niche market for entertainment personalities.

Talent

However, talent makes all the difference in terms of stellar longevity and respectability. Or, if a performer is lacking in talent, the ability to reinvent an established image is crucial in the maintenance or furtherance of his popularity—much like the way Madonna has sustained her stellar career. She's known for her ability to interest or even shock her audience by jolting them from the traditions and conventions imposed by social norms.

(To be concluded)

Rediscovering Taste of L.A.

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

THE TOMAS Morato area is full of many interesting restaurants. Just last week, we featured Katre, a Mediterranean restaurant along Scout Rallos, that has been eliciting raves from its many new diners.

Another dining place that has been around for many years now is Taste of L.A. along Roces ave. and Tomas Morato. The place first opened along Wilson in the mid-'80s as Pere Armand. It was a restaurant that transformed into a bar later in the evening.

Tandem

For entertainment, it was the then popular "Manila Band" performing nightly. On the restaurant side, it was the tandem of Elaine and Jonet Galvez "performing" in the kitchen.

Jonet and Elaine are self-confessed foodies. I would see them all over the metropolis trying all kinds of dining places. Both love to eat and it is Elaine who has a passion for cooking great-tasting food.

After their "performance" at Pere Armand, they moved on to open Taste of L.A. along E. Rodriguez in Quezon City. After many years, the place transferred to A. Roces ave., where it is presently located.

On a recent visit, I realized what good food I had been missing during my absence from Elaine and Jonet's cooking. I first tried their lamb stew—morsels of lamb leg stewed to a tender perfection and served with a nice tomato based sauce. Delicious!

After that meal, I did a comeback with my family and enjoyed the experience immensely. I had the Asian salad to start with—shreds of chicken breast with a variety of julienne-cut vegetables and deep fried and puffed vermicelli noodles served with a nice subtle Asian sauce. Different and an absolute must!

Different

We also had the Garlic lamb pizza with black olives, mushrooms, creamy feta, rosemary and mint leaves. Delicious and also different.

The pizzas are baked in their one-of-a-kind oven which they inherited from the previous owners of the place. Also worth a try. We then moved on to the dessert, which often runs out because no one else makes them except Elaine. It was an Orange cheesecake to floor any cheesecake lover!

There are many other interesting dishes on the menu. Jonet and Elaine have come a long way! They are awaiting the opening of their new baby, a branch at Pearl Drive in Ortigas. Check them out! Happy eating!

P.S.: I recently tried two new dishes at Toque, the Chilean Sea Bass with saffron risotto and the warm chocolate pudding with vanilla ice cream. Both worth a trip!

My cookbook is available at my outlets at Galleria, Glorietta 4 and Enterprise. Or visit my site at sandydaza.8k.com.

Kuya Cesar plays songs about living and loving

By Rito P. Asilo

THE TEENAGE set may think it was Ricky Martin, the hip-swinging debonair hitmeister from Puerto Rico, who revolutionized Latino music and brought it to mainstream pop consciousness.

Pop charts

But long before Ricky and the likes of Gloria Estefan, Christina Aguilera, Luis Miguel and Marc Anthony invaded the pop charts, there was Trio Los Panchos, the Mexican trio who introduced the dance music, from the Argentinian tango to the Colombian *cumbia*, of Latin America to the global stage. These days, you hardly hear about the trio because DJs no longer play their music.

Not if Kuya Cesar has a say about it! We caught the trio's "Historia de Un Amor" when we tuned in recently to Kuya Cesar's radio program.

Late-night radio's "Dear Kuya Cesar" (Saturdays over ABS-CBN's DZMM, 630 khz) rose to fame because of his voice's characteristic deep snoozy timbre and his advice-program format, plays songs that have not only been international but also huge local hits in the distant and not-so-distant past.

For people who grew up in the '60s, '70s and '80s, Kuya Cesar's choice of songs is a reminder of their growing-up years: the poignant, melancholic Nashville sound of Patsy Cline's "Crazy"; Engelbert Humperdinck's version of "Am I That Easy to Forget?", which was popularized locally by Victor Wood; Jack Jones' "The Shadow of Your Smile"; Neil Sedaka's "My World Keeps Getting Smaller Everyday"; and the Linda Ronstadt-James Ingram collaboration, "Somewhere Out There", from the soundtrack of the movie, "An American Tail", which was producer Steven Spielberg's first foray into animation.

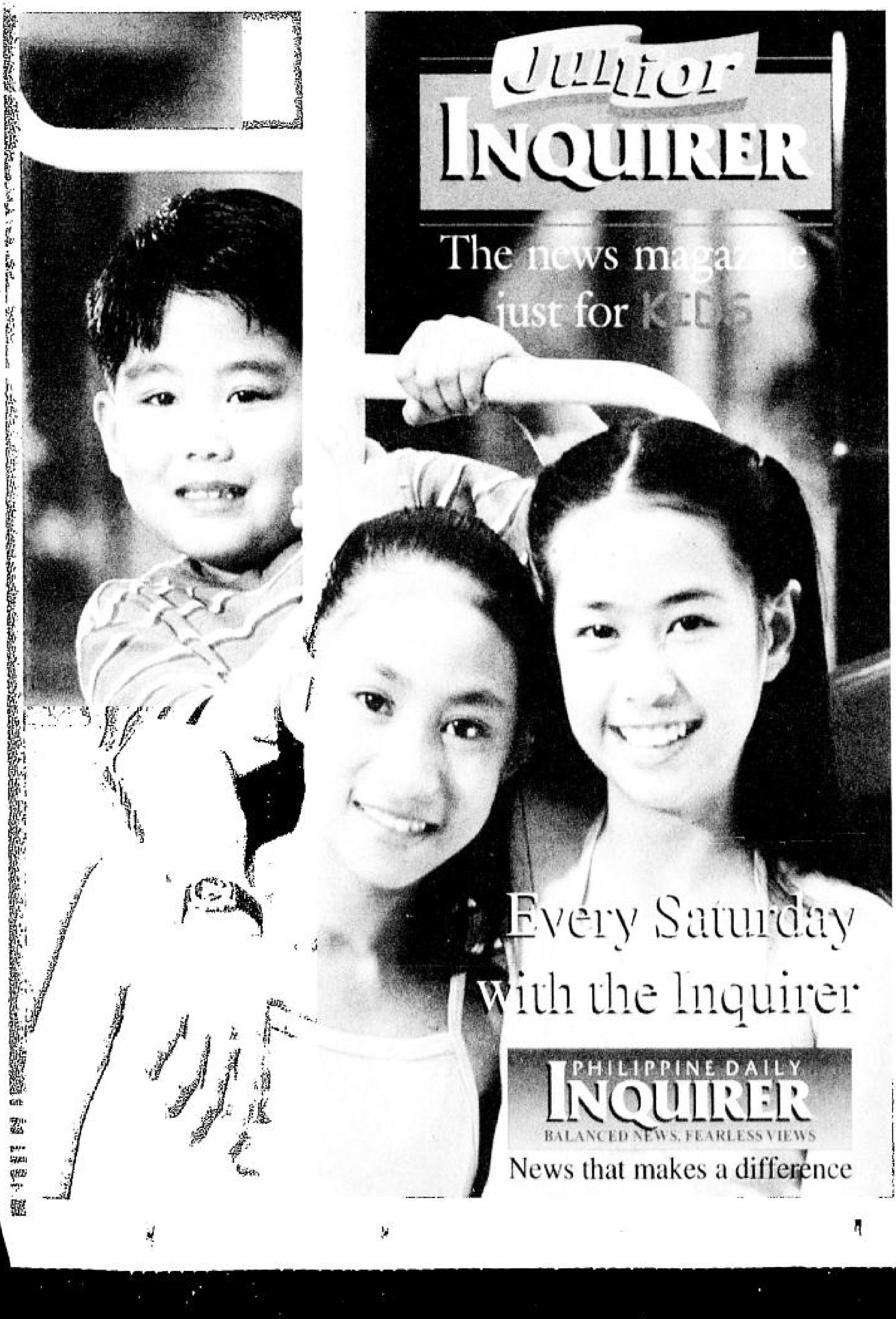
Soundtrack

In this program, the songs are not limited to foreign selections. We heard Pilita Corrales' version of the Visayan classic, "Matud Nila". Proof of the popularity of this oft-recorded song is that even megastar Sharon Cuneta, who doesn't speak a single Visayan word, recorded the song for the soundtrack of her career-defining film, "Bukas Luluhod ang Mga Tala" in the '80s.

We also heard Junior's bittersweet "It's Only Love", another song which Sharon revived in her "Nothing I Want More" album. A.M.B. Junior was a Spanish import who came to the Philippines in the late '70s to record songs like "Yakap", and team-up with Vilma Santos in the movie "Rock Baby Rock".

Of course, Pinoy music of the '80s would not be complete without the jukebox staples that catapulted Imelda Papin to fame.

We are talking about Papin's "Bakit", which paved the way for other Jukebox monster hits like Claire dela Fuente's "Sayang" and Eva Eugenio's "Tukso...Layuan Mo Ako". *(To be concluded)*



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Julie Andrews' dauntless . . .

(From page D1)

ter Emma. Her latest challenge is a live version of "On Golden Pond," which appears on CBS Sunday. She is joined by Christopher Plummer, their first time together since "The Sound of Music."

At the end of a long day of rehearsal, Andrews relaxed in a CBS dressing room with a cup of tea and spoke of her life and career.

Her voice was clear despite the daylong recital of dialogue.

At 65, her face seems little changed from her days as Maria Von Trapp and Mary Poppins. She looked comfortable in a blue exercise suit, with a long white scarf for decoration. Her blondish hair remains signature short, and she often ran her hand through it as she talked.

She was born into the entertainment world and spent most of her youth on the move. Her parents were music hall performers. They divorced when Julie was young, and her mother remarried and formed an act with her new husband. Since the girl's school was closed because of the war, her stepfather suggested singing lessons—"to give me something to do, and, I suspect for him to get close to this stepdaughter who didn't like him at all. I adored my father."

Mature sound

"I hated the singing lessons," she recalled, "but to their surprise and mine, I had this freak four-octave voice which had a mature sound, I could do any kind of coloratura calisthenics." At 10, she was singing in her parents' act. At 12, she appeared in a London revue and on opening night she brought the audience to their feet "with my one excruciatingly high aria."

The show lasted three years, and she thought that would be the extent of her career.

"But one job led to another," Andrews said, "and I went all around England endlessly in vaudeville, which was really my training; I'm not legitimately trained at all. All I knew was to belt it out in front of any audience—the drunks on Saturday night in Glasgow, or Liverpool or Cardiff or Newcastle, wherever."

She was appearing in a pantomime at the London Palladium at 17 when she was asked to join a company staging the musical "The Boy Friend." The show overwhelmed London audiences, and she was invited to join the New York production by 1954 "as the dumb blond heroine with big blue eyes and not terribly smart."

Breadwinner

She was reluctant to leave England, since she was the family breadwinner and terrified that she might be "too green, too homesick." Her father convinced her it was too great an opportunity to pass up.

New York became as entranced with Julie Andrews as London had been. Next came the offer to play Eliza Doolittle in "My Fair Lady." For the first time in her young life, she was faced with failure.

"I knew I wasn't cutting it, I knew how gauche and unschooled I was," she remarked of the rehearsal period. Rex Harrison, who was himself unnerved by appearing in his first musical, wanted her replaced. Moss Hart, the director, wouldn't give up on her and for 48 hours in a hotel room "he pushed and pleaded and cajoled and bullied to just make Eliza Doolittle come to life for me."

ANDREWS in one of her signature roles, as Eliza Doolittle in "My Fair Lady."

"My Fair Lady" became one of the biggest hits in Broadway history, and Andrews remained with it for 3 1/2 years in New York and London. Next came "Camelot" with Richard Burton and Robert Goulet, another huge success.

One night Walt Disney paid a visit backstage. He invited Andrews and her then husband, stage designer Tony Walton, to come to Hollywood and see his studio's plans for filming "Mary Poppins," based on the P.L. Travers children's books.

Pregnant

"But I'm two or three months' pregnant," she replied.

"We'll wait," Disney said.

When the Waltons finally arrived in California, Disney showed them preparations for "Mary Poppins" and entertained them at Disneyland and the horse races. Two things impressed her: the movie had a vaudeville quality, with which she was familiar; and Disney had a talent for spotting talent. He hired Walton to design the costumes and the main street, Cherry Hill Lane.

Jack Warner had bought the film rights to "My Fair Lady," and he didn't cast Andrews, reasoning that he needed a top movie name, Audrey Hepburn, to co-star with Harrison. His snub drew harsh criticism in the trade and much sympathy for Andrews. When she won the Golden Globe for "Mary Poppins," she impishly tweaked the Warner Bros. boss by thanking her mother and her agent "and Mr. Warner for making all this possible."

"There was this seemingly endless pause," she related, "before the audience just rocked back and loved it and laughed." She went on to win the Oscar. Hepburn wasn't nominated.

In 1966 and 1967, Julie Andrews reigned as the No. 1 box-office star, largely because of "Mary Poppins" and "The Sound of Music" (her second Oscar nomination), which at that time was the highest-grossing movie in history. But "Star!" in 1968 and "Darling Lili" in 1970 tanked in theaters, and her luster dimmed.

TEN YEARS AGO

A month of tears and cheers for the entertainment industry

By Noelani Torre

MOVIE people, as well as the whole country, mourned the death of esteemed director Lino Brocka 10 years ago this month. Brocka's car smashed into an electric post on East ave., Quezon City, early in the morning of May 22, 1991.

His death shocked the nation. "It will create a real void in the movie industry," said friend and colleague Behn Cervantes.

Brocka's latest film, "Sa Kabila ng Lahat," was still running in the cinemas at that time. He was also set to leave for Palawan to begin work on "Huwag Mong Salingin ang Sugat Ko," on the day he died.

BROCKA. His death shocked the nation.

Two movies

Brocka left two movies hanging—"Kislap sa Dilim," which only needed three more days to finish, and "Makiusap Ka sa Langit," on which he was doing some post-production work. He was one of the Philippines' most respected and multi-awarded directors, whose name was deemed synonymous with quality film-making.

Brocka was also known for forwarding the careers of such stars as Christopher de Leon and Philip Salvador. Among his most remembered films are "Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang," "Orapronobis," "Gumapang Ka sa Lusak," "Kapit sa Patalim," "Jaguar," "Bona" and "Insiang." Brocka was, and still is, very much missed.

Ruffa Gutierrez was also wailing this time of the year, but for purely different reasons. She was bemoaning some scenes in the trilogy "Isang, Gabi, Tatlong Babae," which were more graphic than was originally agreed upon. Her role was that of a sexy dancer *a la* Vilma Santos, and she hoped it would boost her career.

She objected to a dancing scene in particular, filmed with crotch shots that were more erotic than the ones approved.

'ST' star

"My director cheated me," sniffed the actress. "I trusted him. Obviously they're selling me as an 'ST' star. *Puwede ba, ibigay na lang nila sa iba ang title na 'ST' dahil ayoko talagang tawagin akong gano'n!*"

..Ruffa wasn't the only one doing daring scenes then. In a surprise move, Beverly Vergel joined the "ST bandwagon" with her bed scenes opposite Miguel Rodriguez in the movie "Hanggang Kailan Ka Papatay."

In "Hihintayin Kita sa Langit," Jackielou Blanco fogged up the lenses with her steamy scenes opposite Richard Gomez. This was a comeback of sorts for Jackielou who had lain low for a while. (One still hardly sees her in the movies nowadays).

Another actress we don't see on the big screen anymore is Nanette Medved, who was a hot ticket 10 years ago. She had just done two films then—"Sa Kabila ng Lahat" and one with Robin Padilla. These two productions were to prepare her for her launching movie in the same year. The bed scenes shot were publicized as "sexier than Dina Bonnevie's."

Speaking of the "Bad Boy," Padilla was then planning to explore his dramatic range by turning into a serious actor. He had a hankering for an acting award (after having known the joy of being nominated) and was hoping to win one the following year.

His twin-brother roles in "Hinukay Ko na ang Libingan Mo" might do the trick, or so the critics said, as these were sufficiently "complex" and "challenging."

The musical talent of the moment was singer Viktoria whom people said was "someone to reckon with." She had written the musical score of the FAP and Urian award-winning short film, "Kidlat." She also played the keyboards, drums, guitar and flute.

Debut

She had just made her debut with "Sasabihin Ko Na," which she wrote and arranged with Jimmy Antiporda of Neocolors. It became a hit and was touted as a "high-energy mover with infectious grooves and catchy lyrics."

Another hot talent, "Miss Saigon" star Lea Salonga, won the Best Actress in a Musical Award in the Drama Desk Awards. The awards are given annually by an association of theater critics, editors and reporters in New York. Lea had also been nominated in the Tony awards, though she refused to speculate on the outcome. (She won that too, of course.)

The Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP) announced that year's nominees: For Best Picture, "Gumapang Ka sa Lusak," "Kaaway ng Batas," "Kapag Langit ang Humatol" and "My Other Woman." In the Best Director category, the nominees were Lino Brocka, Laurice Guillen, Pepe Marcos, Gil Portes, Maryo de los Reyes and Chito Roño.

Contenders for Best Actor were Rudy Fernandez, Eddie Garcia, Richard Gomez, Christopher de Leon and Fernando Poe Jr. And competing for the Best Actress trophy were Nora Aunor, Dina Bonnevie, Sharon Cuneta, Vilma Santos and Vivian Velez.

May was a month of tears and cheers for the denizens of the entertainment industry.

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The credit card industry has built for itself a strong following with over a billion cardholders worldwide. Consequently, the credit card has established itself as an indispensable tool for consumers in the modern times. But if you think that consumers alone benefit from the credit card, think again. Merchants have as much to gain as the consumers to have in the use of the credit card.

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Security problems that go with the use of cash, is done away with, through the use of the credit card. The flow of transactions is done electronically and takes no more than a few minutes. Security is ensured and the entire process can boast of efficiency and accuracy due to the reduction of human error.

The use of the credit card also triggers a considerable increase in sales. This increase comes from the fact that with the credit card, consumers are allotted a greater capacity to purchase. The lack of cash is no longer a barrier to buying what consumers want.

With Internet technology and e-commerce come a new business set-up. The merchants are able to pose their goods and services on the Internet and the consumers are able to browse through a wide selection of items. The transactions are done with the use of the credit cards. In this set-up, the merchant receives the benefits of having his goods and services viewed by more people and as such, the profitability increases dramatically. According to some statistical research made in line with merchant's profitability in e-commerce, those merchants that have placed their goods and services on-line have acquired an almost 100% increase in sales.

The healthy competition triggered by e-commerce is beneficial to the consumers and the merchants as well. The consumers are given a wealth of options and the merchants are challenged to upgrade their goods and services to fit the pressing market demands.

Merchants who subscribe to the credit card find a partner in the Credit Card Association of the Philippines (CCAP). The association works to secure consumer protection and sustain the profitability of merchants at the same time. Through periodic merchant education and reminders, CCAP is able to create a greater awareness of the latest business trends and demands among the merchants thereby making these merchants more able to face the challenges of modern business.

Aside from their own marketing strategies, the merchants also get to tap in on the card companies' own marketing effort. With double marketing, the merchants get more exposure and hence more profit.

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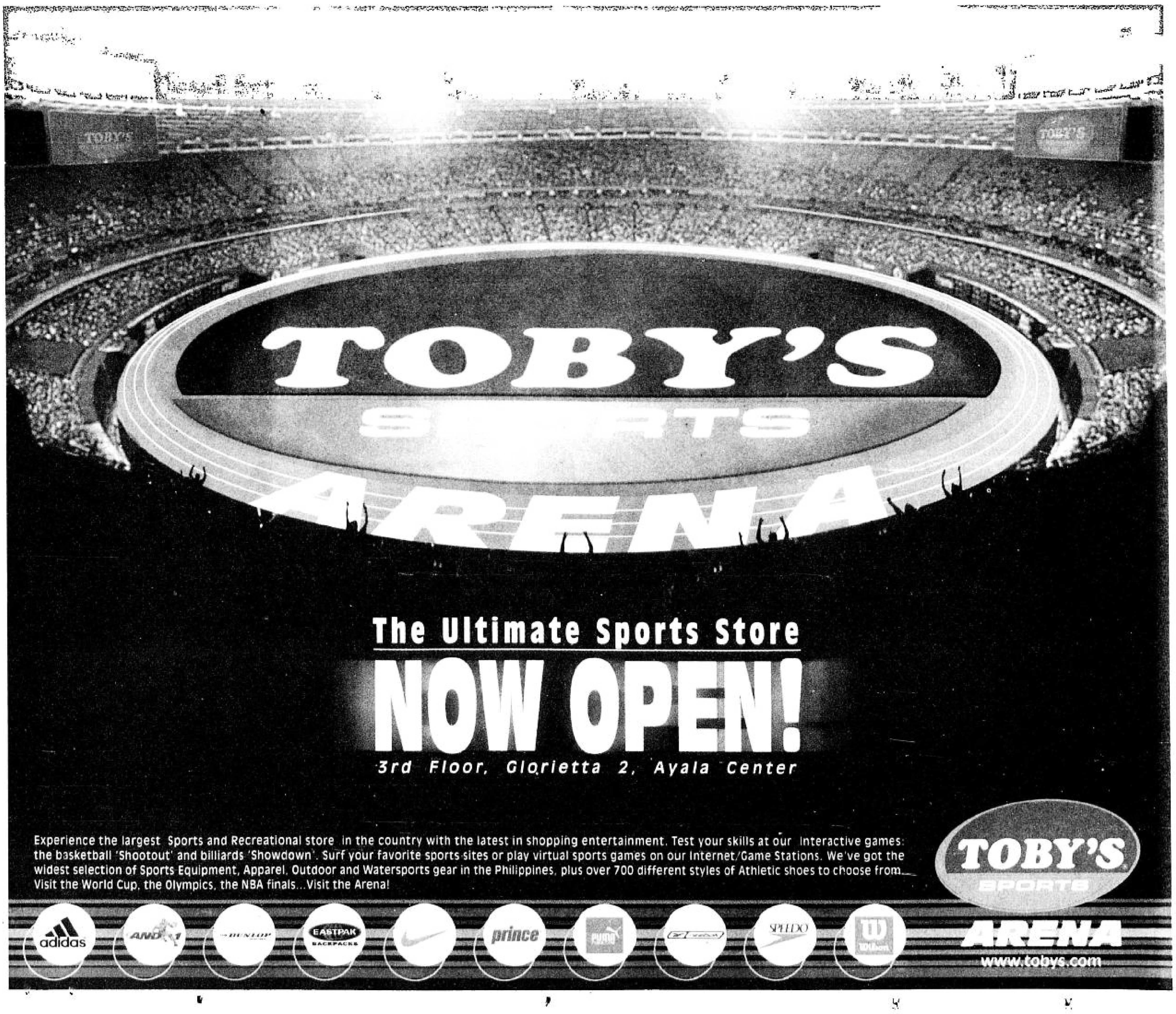

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Summertime with Champagne and Pops

By Remy M. Umerez

FOR Pops Fernandez, work and pleasure come together as she spans various media, from recording to the movies, and most specially the concert scene.

Byword

It will be a well-organized summer for Pops as she resumes promoting "Shindig," her first live recording. Her two "Shindig" concerts which created waves in Cavite last December have become such a byword that the release of a live recording of the concert has become inevitable.

On television, aside from her regular hosting stint, Pops will also be hosting her own TV special which will bring her to vacation spots in Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia.

The best vacation for Pops is one spent with her two sons, Robin and Ram. The same goes for her ex-husband Martin. Whoever goes to the States for a show, they always bring their two sons. The boys will leave ahead because their father has a series of shows lined up. A month later, Pops will join the two boys.

Small party

For her part, Champagne Morales, turned 18 this summer and decided to mark the event in a simple manner, with a small party with intimate friends.

Champagne has never been to the United States, so if she is gifted with a free trip by her mom, Dinah Dominguez, her dream will be realized.

A new show on Channel 5 where she plays a princess makes her summer a busy one. "I like the fantasy flavor of the show and working with Jeric Raval and Jimmy Santos is great fun," she remarks. Likewise, Champagne is gaining more television exposure with her inclusion in "AnnaKarenina," as the sister of Anne Curtis.

A mama's girl, Champagne is proud of the way her mom raised her, never depending on support from her father. Since she joined show business, she has been the subject of cruel talks, specially regarding the strong influence of her mother on her career.

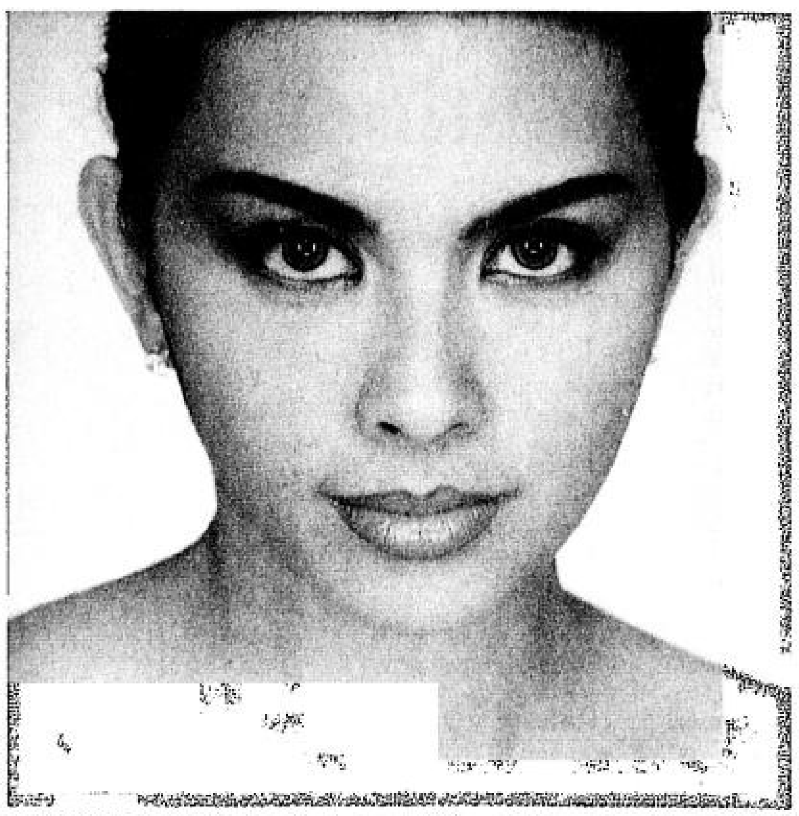
Connections

She has learned to take everything in stride, stating that mother knows best and would only wish the best for her child. Such talks hurt Champagne at the start, specially when they implied that her show biz career was achieved through her mother's connections. "It was unfair because I worked hard, just like any other serious artist," she sighs.

Champagne has proven herself as a singer and boasts of an album that is nearing gold

But she has proven herself as a singer and can boast of an album that is nearing gold. The theater has always fascinated Champagne, and she has taken steps to improve her craft through acting workshops.

All that Champagne want is to become a well-rounded performer—through her own merits!



FERNANDEZ. Will be hosting her own TV special.

BANAWA. No more tears.

Carol Banawa's 'tanging yaman' is her family

By Gloria P. Sicam

IT'S one of those statements that can sound like a cliché, but for Carol Banawa, it's one of the truest things in the world: "The inspiration for all my hard work is my family. *Talaga. Kung baga*, bonus *na lang na binigyan ako ni* God *ng ganitong* line of work that I enjoy and at the same time, *nakakatulong ako*."

You may think she's just living up to the role she played in the multi-awarded "Tanging Yaman," but perhaps the reason she played her role and sang the title song so convincingly is because of her family. Carol just loves her family to bits, and she's not afraid to admit it.

Number one fan

Take this example: her solo concert last April 27 at Onstage Greenbelt was "dedicated to my *kuya*, number one fan *ko yun. Kasama ko siya magplano. Tinuturuan ako minsan. Pag kumakanta ako sa* wedding, *siya yung* invited guest *ko. Kasi magaling din kumanta yun.*

Carol's brother died of carbon monoxide poisoning. Both brother and father parked in Megamall and slept with the air-conditioner and the engine on as they waited for Carol to come out from school. Her brother died and her father suffered considerable brain damage. He's in a wheelchair now, and can't really speak.

In her presscon for the concert, Carol told the tragic story in an even voice, without a single tear. Says Carol, "I had to shut myself off. I have to be strong for my mom. (Mrs. Banawa, who was present at the presscon, kept sobbing while Carol spoke). *Wala si ate, wala si kuya.* So I had to be . . . *bato* for awhile. I make it a point *kasi na* I don't cry with others. I cry by myself."

Besides, her brother seems to be very happy for her: "A family friend from Batangas and said he dreamed of him. *Sabi daw, pakisabi sa akin na masaya daw siya sa nangyayari sa* career *ko*."

Well, with this concert, her career is definitely beginning to soar. Carol has a crystal-clear voice that lends itself to emotion easily, making it a pleasure to listen to. And when Carol performs, she enjoys herself immensely, so you enjoy her singing with her.

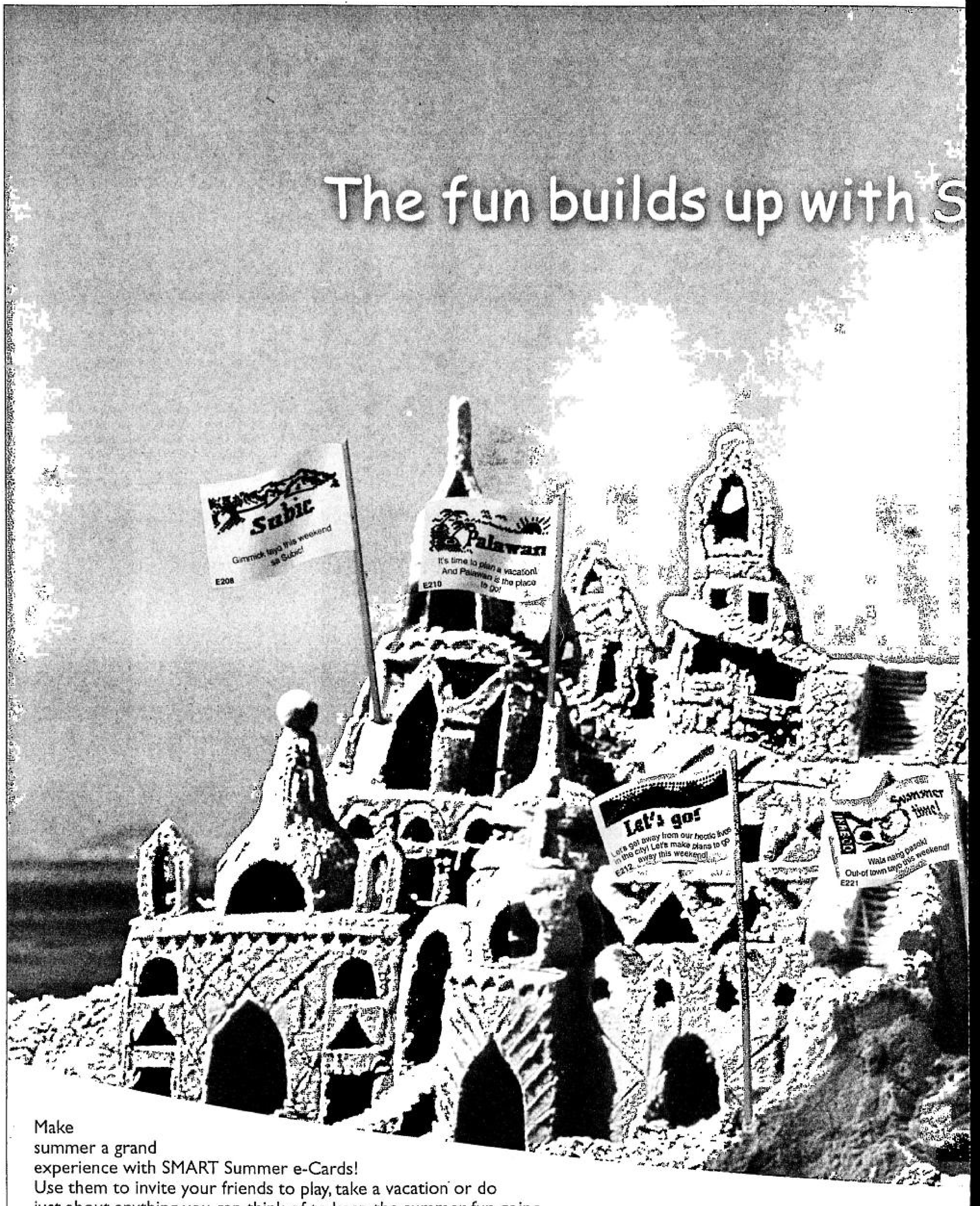
Relaxed

Carol was so relaxed onstage, you'd think she was a pro on the concert scene. She delivered her spiels with ease and poise. Says Carol, "What people see when I perform, that's who I am. No masks. What you see is what you get. "

The songs she sang were well chosen, and well arranged--kudos to her musical director, Ric Mercado, for that. She sang acoustic versions of "It Might Be You" and "Burn," giving a new twist to songs that have a tendency to be overplayed due to their popularity. She sang a "classical" version of Jennifer Lopez's "My Love Don't Cost a Thing," accompanied by a violin and a piano (and the band, who came in to give the extra "oomph").

She changed that head-banging, rock song "I'll Be There for You " into a sweet, diva-esque ballad.

CAROL/ P. D3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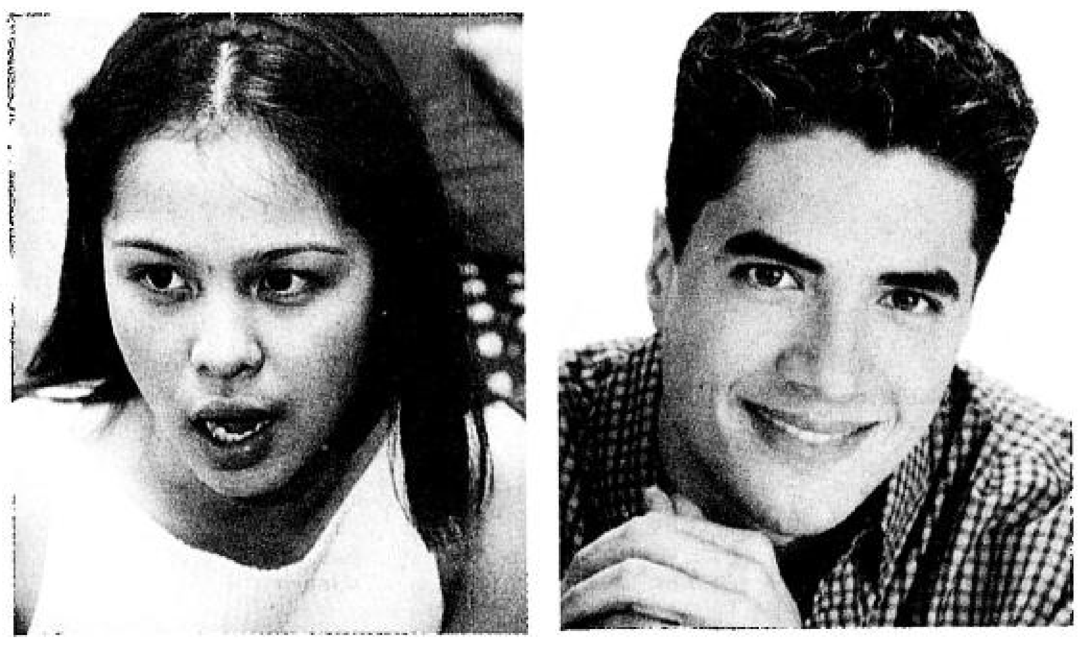
TWO FOR THE SHOW

Albert Martinez believes in the power of television

By Mary Ann A. Bautista
and Ricky T. Gallardo



NIKKI AND TROY. Encountering some really rough sailing.

> When people learned that Nikki had swept Troy off his feet, they turned green with envy

ALBERT Martinez celebrated his birthday on the set of "Ikaw Lamang Ang Mamahalin." Over *merienda*, Albert noted that people can no longer tell the difference between a TV actor and a film actor. Five years ago, being seen regularly on television was a risky move for an actor because it would mean over-exposure. These days, though, a TV show can make or break an actor.

"All the big names are on television! Aga Muhlach, Cesar Montano, and Robin Padilla are on TV on a weekly basis and it doesn't affect the popularity of their movies. Visibility enhances an actor's film career, and that's the power of television!

"When you do a film, it's because you love the craft. Emotions are more real and you have bigger moments on film. When you do a soap opera, you have to exaggerate the emotions," Albert said.

If you suspect that Albert has qualms about being in a soap opera, think again. Albert did his first *telenovela*, "Anna Liza," opposite Julie Vega, years ago. The soap stayed on the air for five years. Albert played the young suitor, Glenn.

In "Ikaw Lamang Ang Mamahalin," Albert plays Ferdinand Fuentebuella, a man forced to marry into a rich family to save the wealth of his own family, but on the eve of his wedding, he has a one-night stand with a prostitute (Gina Alajar) and gets her pregnant. After five years, he's reunited with his daughter, Catherine, but gets separated from her again.

Throughout the soap, he longs to be with Catherine (Angelyka dela Cruz) as his loveless marriage crumbles. For a change, Albert plays a sympathetic character instead of the hateful ones he plays in his movies. How does he gauge if a role would be good for him?

"In this soap, I try to inject positive values. People watch TV because they want to emulate the character they see. *Ginagawa nilang* role model *yung buhay ng mga* characters. But I make sure that the character I play is flawed, I always look for a dark twist," Albert reveals.

Tony Hadley makes a comeback

Tony Hadley breathes more life into his songs in his new album, "Obsession." With his new band members, John Keeble (drums), Fraser Smith (guitars and back-up vocals), Phil Taylor (keyboards, acoustic guitars, back-up vocals) and Phil Williams (bass and back-up vocals), Tony gives a different appeal to his songs.

Starting his singing career in the '80s with Spandau Ballet, which popularized the hits "True" and "Gold," Tony feels that recording the album live at the Ronnie Scotts Club in Birmingham, England made it memorable.

"The most important aspect of playing live is that it should be fun for the band and the audience. Writing songs for this album gave it more meaning, too. I also have revivals like Red Hot Chilli Pepper's "Under the Bridge" and M. Cohn's "Walking in Memphis," Tony relates.

In defense of Troy and Nikki

Tinseltown's newest pair, Troy Montero and Nikki Valdes, is encountering some really rough sailing with their recent admission that they're into a romantic relationship.

We can't understand why some entertainment writers are against their becoming lovers. What they are sharing at the moment in their private little world is none of our business!

The few times that we've spoken to them, we liked their spontaneity and sincerity. Troy is reserved but, when he speaks, expect a lot of sense and sensitivity. Nikki maybe young and gigglish, but she speaks her heart and mind.

In a business like show biz where people worship *mestizos*, Troy is treated like a precious property.

So, when people learned that rising starlet Nikki had swept him off his feet, everybody turned green with envy and "crab mentality" started to creep in. Poor Nikki has had to absorb all the tirades, she being the less popular of the two.

Why is it that, when Troy was linked with more popular celebrities like Pops Fernandez or Charlene Gonzales, we heard nothing nasty thrown at those ladies? What's wrong with being Nikki Valdes? Nothing, because Nikki, as the character of Julia Roberts in the film "Notting Hill" said, is just a girl who wants to be loved by a man—and the man just happens to be Troy.

Dessa deserves a hit

She has made her mark on the local music scene, but one thing continues to elude talented songstress Dessa all these years—a certified hit she can call her own.

No longer the perennial "front act queen" of the music world, Dessa has built up enough confidence to soar on her own.

Lately, Dessa has been spreading her wings, trying out different fields related to music: performing in a musical ("Jesus Christ Superstar"), and songwriting, constantly being pushed by her intimate friend, Rannie Raymundo.

In her latest album, "Respect," Dessa will show how fast she has learned the art of composing. There's an interesting cut titled "Mahal Kita" which Dessa and Rannie wrote, a follow-up to their Metropop entry last year, "Noon, Ngayon," which is also included in this new CD from Star Records.

Since Dessa needs a hit badly, the album's producers have included revivals like "Alone Again Naturally," "Point of No Return" and "Look at the Sun."

Carol . . .

(From page D4)

Of course, she sang "Tanging Yaman " angelically and very, very meaningfully, because, as she said, "I'm going to sing 'Tanging Yaman' for my family *dahil sila ang tanging yaman ko.* "

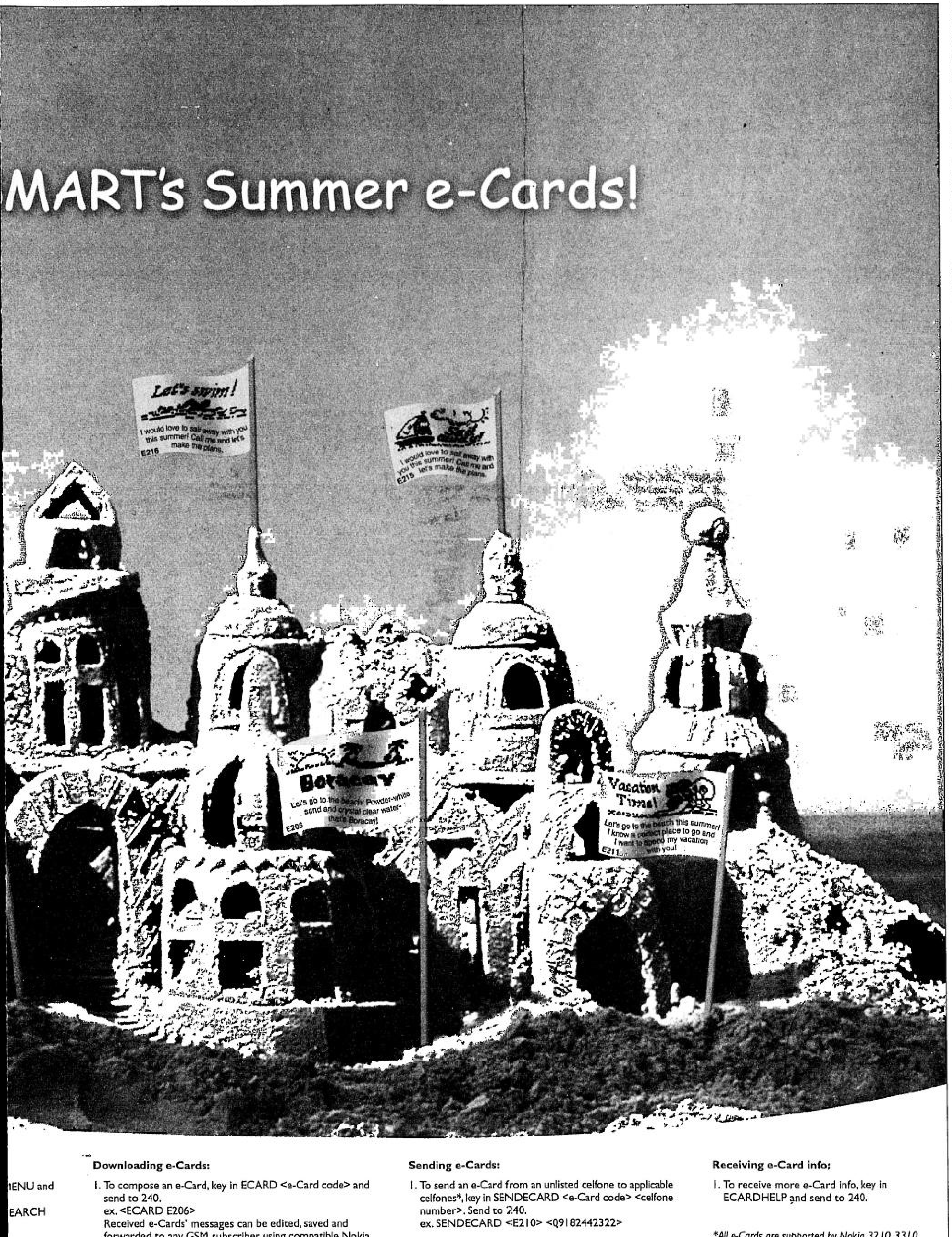
Her guests were well-chosen. There was South Border, who of course sang "Kahit Kailan. "Bituin Escalante and Anna Fegi gave new meaning to the word "diva" with their medley of what I like to call *hataw* songs like "I Will Survive " and "Enough is Enough " with Carol. And their duet, "Freak Out "brought down the house with its volume and power. My only complaint about this part: I wanted each of them to have their own solos. Two powerful voices like that deserved one song each, at the very least!

Special portion

But of course, this was Carol's concert. A very special portion of the show was when Carol sang "Paalam Na" *a capella* with Three of a Kind. This song is Three of a Kind's signature song of sorts, but apparently, it holds a lot more meaning for Carol: "It's the song the three of us (me, my *kuya* and my sister) used to sing," she explained.

As her final song, she sang with Three of a Kind and a choir "The Way it Used to Be." It was a very grand ending, but awkward in the sense that there was no chaser music. All Carol said was, "Thank you" and then she left the stage as the curtains closed.

Whoever talked about the human soul's resilience must've had Carol in mind. After the tragedy and pain of losing a brother and almost losing a father, she still got to where she is now: a beautiful young lady with a voice to match.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'The Mummy' is back—with a vengeance!

TEN years after their horrific encounter with the mummified Egyptian priest Imhotep, Rick O'Connel (Brendan Fraser) and Evelyn (Rachel Weisz) are now married with an eight-year-old son, Alex (Freddie Boath)—a real chip off the old block.

Fun and adventure

From his father he has inherited a sense of fun and adventure, from his mother a fascination for ancient civilizations. And there is always Uncle Jonathan (John Hannah) to titillate the lad's active imagination.

Six thousand years ago, a fierce warrior known as the Scorpion King (The Rock) made a pact with the great God Anubis but betrayed him and was cursed for all time. He is now due to awake and raise the Army of Anubis to wipe out the civilized world.

A mysterious band of ruthless latter-day power-seekers are hell-bent on reviving Imhotep (Arnold Vosloo), as the only creature tough enough to take out the Scorpion King—once again setting loose a 3,000-year-old legacy of terror, embodied in the vengeful reincarnation of the Egyptian priest, sentenced to an eternity as one of the living dead.

FRASER AND VOSLOO. Legacy of terror.

But this time, with the help of the evil Lock Nah (Adewale) and the beautifully determined Meela (Patricia Velasquez), Imhotep's petrified corpse begins its regeneration in the bowels of London's British Museum—courtesy of the Curator (Alun Armstrong).

Military leader

Ardeth Bay (Oded Fehr), military leader of the Medjai, sworn to do all in his power to stop the creature from being reborn into this world, once again recruits our heroes to help prevent a catastrophe of enormous proportions.

The intrepid group manages to survive several murderous attacks by Lock Nah's red-turbaned killers, a violent confrontation with soldier mummies on a London bus, a series of frightening encounters with cannibalistic pigmy skeletons, and a horrendous flight in a dirigible, piloted by the very eccentric Izzy (Shaun Parkes).

Bayani Agbayani is in no hurry to reach the top

By Edmund L. Sicam

HIS real name is Bayani Rogacion, Jr., not the kind of name you'd associate with a comedian, so when it came to choosing a screen name, the temptation was to come up with a funny-sounding monicker like Cachupoy, Tugak, Bentot, Palito. Instead, he opted for Bayani Agbayani, using a rhyming family name to lighten his image.

Sidekick

This week, Bayani, who usually plays sidekick to action star Cesar Montano, tackles a lead role opposite sexy comedienne Rufa Mae Quinto in "Baliktaran! (Si Ace At Si Daisy)," where the pair switches sexual identities with hilarious results. The movie is directed by Al Tantay.

Though he has appeared in lead roles before ("Mana Mana, Tiba Tiba" and "Juan and Ted"), the comedian has not closed his doors to supporting roles. He feels that supporting actors have greater longevity.

At the same time, he has not restricted his sidekick pairings to just one actor. The more stars he pairs off with, the more he learns from them, says Bayani.

What's interesting about the funnyman is that he does not rely on the comedian's usual bag of tricks. While others will expose themselves to ridicule with physical deformities, Bayani prefers to be himself. He is most effective when he is delivering his funny lines with a straight face. There are times, of course, when he will distort his face to get a laugh, but most of the time, the laughter comes from the situation.

AGBAYANI AND QUINTO. Switch sexual identities with hilarious results.

Secret

Bayani shared the secret of his comedic talent with us when we talked to him recently. *"Sabi ng iba napapag-aralan daw ang pagpapatawa, pero iba yung pagpapatawa na galing sa puso,"* he says with a smile.

What's more, Bayani maintains his jovial attitude on and off camera. *"Dapat kahit na nasa likod or nasa harap ng camera, magpapatawa ka pa rin, para masigla ang buhay mo at masaya mong tinatanggap ang nangyayari sa buhay mo. Sa* comedy, *dapat ginagamit mo ang pagpapatawa sa buhay mo mismo."*

This attitude is probably what sustained him during his difficult period, when he didn't have even have enough money to put food on the table three times a day.

Co-star Rufa Mae attests to Bayani's antics off and on screen. She had a great time making the movie mostly because her co-star was always making everyone laugh on the set.

Bayani is a strong believer in the saying that "laughter is the best medicine." *"Kapag tumawa ka, lahat ng laman ng katawan parang nagja*-jogging. *Nae-exercise hindi lang ang puso mo, pati na ang* kidney, lungs *at iba pang* organs!" he grins.

Dolphy fan

Bayani is in awe of the King of Comedy, Dolphy *"Makuha ko lang ang gatuldok or gakuko ng success niya, napakasaya ko na,"* he gushes. It was a long-time dream of Bayani to appear with Dolphy in a movie and that dream was fulfilled when he appeared with him in "Home Along Da Riles." He was floating on air while doing the movie and even when he would go home after shooting, *"kinikilabutan pa rin ako."*

He says Dolphy is one-of-a-kind, like Michael Jordan in basketball and FPJ in action movies. He also admires the Comedy King for helping many people he has come in contact with.

Sometimes, he would peep inside Dolphy's dressing room and see six people giving him a massage. Bayani explains that Dolphy is not overdoing it but merely helping as many people as possible. Those masseurs get a nice tip from him when they are done.

We asked Bayani to assess the progress of his career. *"Sa sampung baitang na kailangan kong akyatin, nasa pangalawa pa lang ako,"* says Bayani. His fans will probably dispute this self-assessment considering that he has a daily noontime show and a weekly TV sitcom, and he is in demand in the movies.

However, the comedian explains that in show biz, *"Madaling umakyat, mahirap i-*maintain *ang iyong* position. *Gusto ko dahan-dahan muna. Maraming nagsasabi sa akin, 'Bakit hindi ka gumawa ng solo movie?' Sabi ko, 'Saka na yon.' Masaya na ako kung medyo umaatras ako paminsan-minsan basta't umaabante naman ako palagi."*

Bayani faces busy days ahead. Aside from his regular TV shows, he is about to do a movie that spoofs both "The Matrix" and "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" for Star Cinema, and he is being tapped to co-star with Michael V in a local adaptation of Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple."

How to become a good TV host

By Nestor U. Torre

(Conclusion)

AFTER getting your mind in order for the mentally-demanding task of hosting a TV talk show, you must work on your attitude.

Social clout

In other words, *why* are you hosting the show? To make money? To be popular? To acquire power and social clout? All of the above?

Fine, but it isn't enough. You have to want to work on TV because you think you can become a good communicator, one who serves not just his own personal agenda, but thinks of his interview subjects and his viewers, as well.

In fact, the talk show host who thinks less of himself and more of his interviewees and audience is destined to become more popular and admired and successful than all of the egotists pretending to be talk-show hosts on our major channels.

Communication medium

Why? Because TV is not a private showcase, not an ego trip, but a communication medium, and if it is used well in that regard, many viewers can learn a lot from watching a talk show—and appreciate it when they *are* given the chance to learn.

Of course, talk shows still has to be entertaining. Viewers are supposed to learn *while* they're having a great time. So, the host who can make them do that should make it a point to stop thinking about himself and focus only on his guests and viewers.

This isn't easy to do, because monster egos often get in the way. We all have our pet peeves among the TV hosts we see in action on the tube, and paramount among them is the host who keeps shunting the talk back to *his* own life and interests.

Favorite film

Talk about fashions, and he'll chatter away about the styles and colors that are right for *him*. Cuisine and restaurants? The *sosi* new place *he* went to last week. Movies? *His* most favorite film of all time!

Hosts who do this say that they "personalize" the discussion because it makes the talk more specific, and "warmer." But many viewers disagree and hiss: "Excuse me *lang, no*? We're interested in the topic and what your guests have to say, *pero wala kaming pakialam sa buhay mo*!"

Take it from there, prospective talk-show hosts!

Right questions

And you have to be *genuinely* curious about your guests and what they have to say. This will help you focus on them, come up with the right questions, etc.

What *are* the right questions to ask in the course of an interview? First, even before formulating those questions, you've got to do your homework and make yourself as knowledgeable as possible, so you don't just wing it and look stupid on the tube (viewers are much smarter than TV people give then credit for, you know). Only then can you come up with questions that are at least sensible.

But the best questions are the ones which you think the viewers would ask if *they* were doing the interview instead of you. How do you figure out what they want to know? By putting yourself in their place. How do you do that? *Not* by being self-absorbed and super-stylish, that's for sure.

Target audience

You have to go out of your studio, out of your chi-chi life, and get to know what your target audience is *really* like. That way, you won't be talking above them, but directly *for* them.

The good thing about this viewer-centered approach is that it swiftly cuts through the layers of useless, distracting *porma* and *yabang* that make so many TV hosts so irritating and off-putting.

Viewers will sense that you speak for them, that you're being yourself and nobody else, so they'll quickly warm up to you and make it a point to watch your show on a regular basis.

With loyal audience support like that, you're on your way!

Carlo Orosa touches people's lives

By Jocelyn Valle

WHEN Gary Valenciano hit it big on the pop music scene in the '80s, a lot of young men, Kundirana alumni especially, also aspired for stardom in the entertainment industry. Gary's 1982 batchmate in the La Salle Greenhills singing group, Carlo Orosa, was one of them.

Bands

Carlo started his pursuit by joining bands in 1983. Six years later, he decided to try his luck as a solo act, determined to fulfill his dream of becoming a pop singer. He was able to cut an album under Octoarts and had regular bookings for shows. Replicating good friend Gary's success remained elusive, though.

"Every artist faces some frustrations," Carlos says now in reflection, realizing that performers are like commodities. "The public is looking for a certain product and you may not be the one they want. *May binabagayan ang isang artista*."

"But I didn't sulk over it," he continues, smiling that he did the right thing. "I busied myself exploring my other talents."

A born-again Christian since 1986, Carlo helped found Trumpets in 1990 with theater veterans like Audie Gemora to provide a venue for values-laden stage plays and musicals.

He also began accepting invitations by various Christian organizations and churches to participate in their evangelistic crusades and fundraising events

Carlo soon saw that he could be more than just a pop singer. He's a versatile actor, playing various roles in Trumpets' programs. He was particularly delightful as Jacob's youngest son Benjamin in "Joseph, the Dreamer" and as Jewel's dear friend Nicodemus in "Little Mermaid."

Impersonation skills

In the recent Easter presentation of Channel 7's talk show, "Mel and Jay," Carlo was able to showcase his impersonation skills. He acted and sounded like Francis Magalona, Ogie Alcasid, Jose Mari Chan, Randy Santiago and Yoyoy Villame but changed the lyrics of their signature songs to inject the teachings of God.

Through his involvement with the theater group, Carlo was also able to discover his love for teaching. Each summer, Trumpets conducts its Playshop workshops and soon, Carlo happily informs us, it'll become an acting school. To prepare for the big responsibility, Carlo will be taking up Musical Theater at New York University.

He's amazed by the Filipinos' performing talents and would very much like to see them shine in the international stage but Carlo also hopes to see Philippine productions in different parts of the world, too.

Festival

Trumpets will take its initial step in this direction next year as it participates in a musical theater festival in Hong Kong, where its version of "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe" will be staged.

Come June, Carlo will be releasing a new album for Emmanuel Records. This time, he won't be competing with budding balladeers anymore. He's creating a new niche by dishing out comedic songs with the message of the gospel.

OROSA. More than just a pop singer.

Carlo may have a hectic schedule but he doesn't think he's spreading himself too thin. "It's important to develop all the things I'm doing now," he elucidates.

"But I always remind myself to focus on doing good. It's not only entertainment that I do. I'm also able to touch other peoples' lives. Now I can tell the Lord, '*kaya mo pala ibinigay ito sa akin*.'"

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM MAY 5—11

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	E!31
[illegible]	5.30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7.00 Arriba Arriba 8.30 Da Body en Da Guard 9.30 Pinoy Exposed 10.00 Keep on Dancing 11.00 "F" 12.00 The Weekend News	6.00 Cartoon Hour 7.00 On-Line Bingo 8.00 SOF 9.00 Lotto Draw 9.15 Road to Sydney 10.15 Fashion Watch 10.45 Olympic Primer 11.15 National Network News 12.00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6.00 Vampires 6.30 Sailormoon Super S 7.00 Tropang Trumpo 8.00 Ispup 9.00 Saturday Night Specials *Clean Slate* 11.00 Diagnosis Murder	5.30 Brigada Siete 7.00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8.00 Kakabakaba 9.30 GMA's BEST *Casino* 11.00 Master Showman Presents 12.30 GMA Network News 1.00 The 700 Club	6.00 SaBayan 7.00 Invisible Man 8.00 Martial Law 9.00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11.00 Business Class 11.30 Late Night Movie	5.30 H2K 7.00 Viva Premiere Night 9.00 Kagat sa Dilim 10.00 Gags Must Be Crazy 11.00 Night Lines	6.00 Starship Troopers 6.30 Journey of Allen Strange 7.00 Two of a Kind 7.30 Seventh Heaven 8.30 Gilmore Girls 9.30 Studio 23 *In the Line of Fire* 12.00 MTV	3.00 Q Show Case 7.00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9.00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9.30 Armor of God 10.00 Oh Tokyo 11.00 Pinoy Wrestling	6.00 CBS Evening News 6.30 E! News Daily 7.00 Celebrity Profile 8.00 E! Special 10.00 Wild On 11.00 David Letterman 12.00 E! Coming Attractions
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[illegible]	6.00 TV Patrol 6.30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 7.00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7.30 Digimon 8.00 Young Hercules 8.30 Star Cinema Presents 10.30 Headlines 11.00 To be announced 12.00 Martin Late@Nite	5.30 Pambansang Balita 6.00 Cartoon Hour 7.00 On-Line Bingo Pilipino 8.00 Street Legal 9.00 Lotto Draw 9.15 Pulso ng Masa 10.15 National Network News 11.00 The Scene 12.00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6.00 Larenca 6.30 Restol 7.00 Top of the Pops 7.30 By Request: *Wasabi Part 2* 8.00 Touched By an Angel 9.00 Working 9.30 Normal Ohio 10.00 The Big News 10.30 The Vote 2001 Tapatan 11.30 Friday Box Office	6.00 Saksi 6.30 Dragonball Z 7.00 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7.30 Pokemon 8.00 Bubble Gang 9.30 GMA Love Stories 10.30 Front Page 11.00 Emergency 12.00 One Cubed	5.30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6.00 Quinceañera 6.30 Siempre Te Amare 7.00 Maria del Cielo 8.00 Dharma and Greg 8.30 Nikki 9.00 City of Angels 10.00 Primetime Balita 10.30 TV Greats on Friday	5.00 PBA 10.00 Kabayo, Karera, Karerista 11.00 Ronda Trese 11.30 Last Fool Show	6.30 Monster By Mistake 7.00 Batman 7.30 Survivor 8.30 West Wing 9.30 Murphy Brown 10.00 News Central 10.30 Oprah 11.15 Citiline 12.00 MTV	4.30 Quartermaster 6.30 Q Showcase 7.30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8.00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6.00 CBS Evening News 6.30 E! News Daily 7.00 In Focus 8.00 E! Mysteries & Scandals 8.30 Talk Soup 9.00 E! True Hollywood Story 10.00 Wild On 11.00 David Letterman

UFO's Planet Rock opens May 9

ARA MINA'S latest album is titled "Heavenly."

UFO's Planet Rock opens its doors to the party-going public on May 9 at the Makati Cinema Square. Paul S. Rode, a Silicon Valley designer and Scott L. Bitton, technical engineer, are the creative people behind the entertainment venue. The place is fully equipped with state of the art sound and lighting equipment while the interior design is inspired by the 1950s super heroes, Flash Gordon and Buck Rogers. Planet Rock personnel will be garbed in space-age body suits and costumes to give the place the total look.

Expected to attend the inauguration of the venue are celebrities like Gary Valenciano and the Powerplay band, Lani Misaluicha, Side A, Freestyle, and Verni Varga. A surprise foreign artist will also grace the opening.

Log on to www.ufosplanetrock.com for more details.

MONTAGE

Mother's Day concert

A special Mother's Day concert will be held at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall's Cinema 1 on May 12.

Performing are Dulce, Butch Montejo, Ana Fegi and Michael Williams in an evening of enchanting and soothing rhythms that celebrate the meaning of motherhood.

Included in the repertoire are "When I Fall in Love," "Loving You," "I Wanna Spend my Lifetime Loving You," "Have I Told You Lately."

Call 726-1968. Ticketholders will get free coupons entitling them to as much as 20 percent discount at selected shops at the Shangri-La.

Ces Drilon hosts 'Pointblank'

"Pipol's" Ces Oreña Drilon becomes the ABS-CBN News Channel's last word in news and analysis with "Pointblank," ANC's newest daily current affairs show premiering Monday, May 7 at 11 p.m. In the half-hour live talk show, Ces examines the daily headline stories and goes deeper into the issues in interviews with the newsmakers and the experts themselves.

Promising to deliver a meatier treatment of the news, "Pointblank" takes advantage of the live format to air conflicting views on the latest issues. Because of the technology available to the show, "Pointblank" can visit remote places and allow guests to interact with each other from different parts of the country.

'Mutya' regional screening

"Mutya ng Pilipinas 2001," a joint project of MAPQI and GMA-7, will hold regional screenings in Cebu, Pampanga and Davao this summer to encourage more beauties to join the contest. Provincial candidates will participate in a live audition where they will get a taste of the pageant's rigorous battery of interviews.

The last screening will be held on May 16 while candidates who pass the auditions will participate in the regional pageants to be held today, May 5 in Davao City, May 11 in Pampanga and May 12 in Cebu.

Coronation night will be held in early June. Call 892-2057 or log on to www.MutyaNgPilipinas.com.

Backstreet VCD available soon

A limited MTV VCD of the Backstreet Boys will soon be available in Taiwan, India, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Dubai, Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Hong Kong with the purchase of their "Black and White" album. This is the group's way to thanking their legions of fans in Asia and MTV for their continued support.

A collaboration between Jive Records and MTV, the exclusive VCD provides the group's fans with great footage for a truly Secret Diary package. The VCD includes all MTV-original material featuring footage of the boys performing on the roof of the MTV studios in New York Times Square, behind-the-scene interviews, scenes from "MTV Fanatic," a special *a capella* version of "Shape of My Heart" and popular music videos.

Ara Mina's album

Sexy star Ara Mina recently launched her latest album, "Heavenly" with the controversial song "Oops, Teka Lang" as the carrier single. The song was used for the soundtrack of Star Cinema's "Oops Teka Lang, Diskarte Ko 'To" with Robin Padilla and Claudine Barretto. The MTRCB put its thumbs down when it was also used for the trailer, which had to be suitable for all audiences.

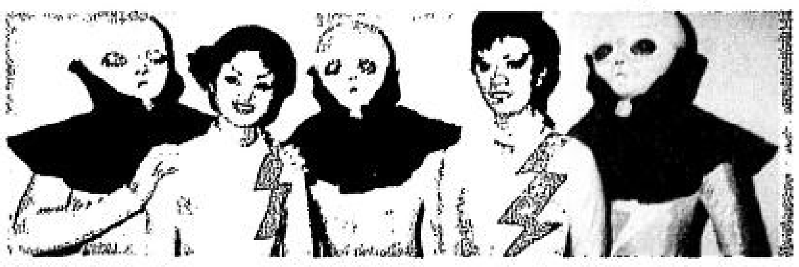
Ara says the album title describes hoe she feels at the moment with things going her way in her career and private life.

Doña Buding joins politics

"Doña Buding 4 Senator" continues its regular run on May 9 and 10 at Onstage Greenbelt and on May 11 and 12 at the Music Museum.

Doña Buding, played by Nanette Inventor, will talk about the deposed president, his malicious designs on her, the 21 senators and what happened at Edsa. She will bash her senatorial opponents and reveal how she used to beat up GMA when they were little girls cavorting in Guagua.

"Doña Buding 4 Senator" is directed by Tony Espejo from a script by Joey Reyes. Call 721-6726 or 752-7862. ***(Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam)***



PLANET Rock personnel in their space-age body suits and costumes.

Nature artist and gardener makes flower paintings 'bloom'

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST Thursday, a unique art show opened at the Metropolitan Gallery at SM Megamall's Art Walk (level 4): Felipe V. Mayoya's exhibit of pointillist paintings of flowers titled "Penagbenga."

At first sight, there was nothing unusual about the exhibit. But we learned that Mayoya is not your usual studio painter—in fact, he works as a caretaker-gardener in Baguio City.

Artistic 'green thumb'

Thus, just as his skill as a gardener makes the plants in the garden he tends bloom in a riot of colors, so does his artistic "green thumb" make it possible for him to create his lovely canvases of blooms that delight art lovers and vivify the beauty of nature.

How did a Baguio gardener end up having an exhibit at SM Megamall? We did some asking around and learned that Mayoya is the caretaker-gardener at well-known artist Araceli "Cheloy" Limcaco Dans' Baguio resthouse.

We checked with Cheloy and she told us this interesting story: In 1985, she needed a caretaker-gardener for her resthouse in Baguio, so she asked for recommendations from friends and neighbors. Felipe was recommended to her, with the added information that he loved sketching and painting.

Early works

She took a look at Felipe's early works and found them to be literal renditions of flowers, plants and fruits. They were flat paintings with no contrasts and stilted use of color.

When Cheloy would go to Baguio to paint, Renato watched her at work and asked many questions. Little by little, she found herself giving Renato pointers and better art materials.

However, she saw that she didn't have to teach him about proportion, and that he really loved to paint. Sadly, one of his previous employers had prevented him from painting at night, "*kasi sayang daw ang ilaw,*" Cheloy sighed.

Well, Renato faced no such limitations with her, so his art developed and flourished through the years. It gradually became more three-dimensional, acquired greater depth, and his use of colors improved. Still, Cheloy didn't want to unduly influence his painting style, because she found it natural and charming.

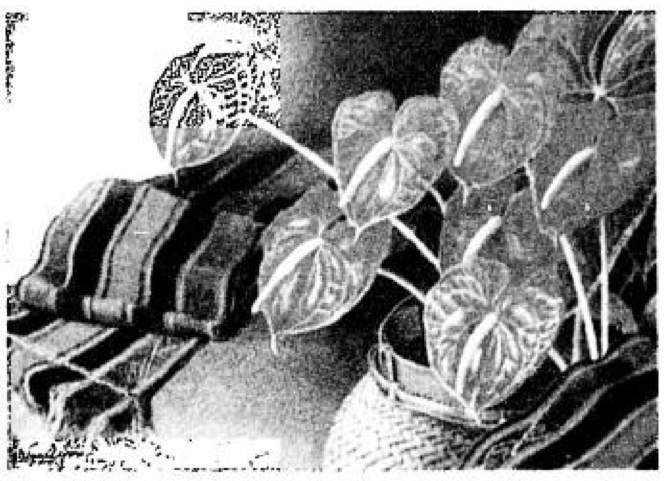
Pointillist style

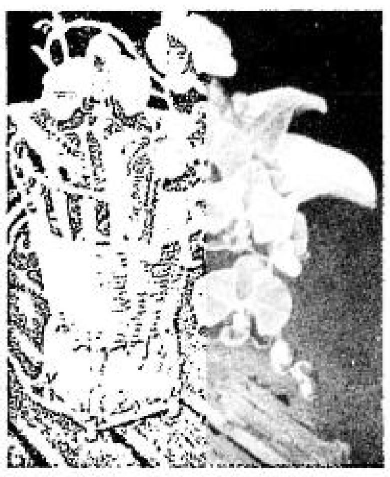
The amazing thing is that Renato arrived at his pointillist style without having been exposed to art books and exhibits. Only when Cheloy introduced him to the famous painter BenCab, head of the Baguio Arts Guild, did Renato "dare" to join a group exhibit.Happily, his works attracted enough attention for him tò mount his first solo exhibit in 1997 at Gallery Y.

Renato and Cheloy were delighted when art lovers found his works highly colorful and decorative—and they sold out! Renato's second exhibit was similarly well-received, and his current show, his third, is also off to a great start.

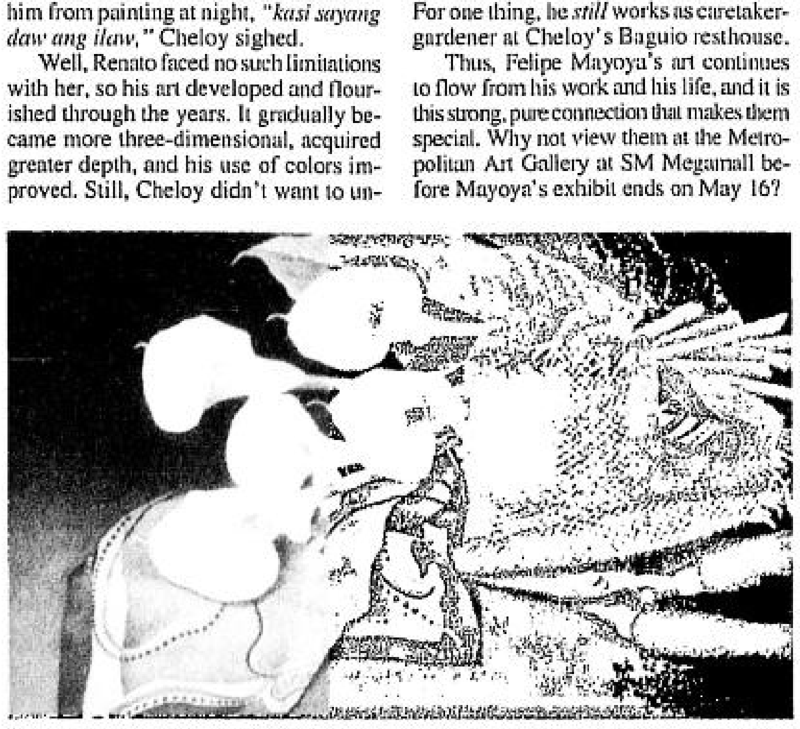
Renato's earnings from the sale of his paintings has improved his family's lifestyle in a big way, but to his credit, he hasn't become citified and modern. For one thing, he *still* works as caretaker-gardener at Cheloy's Baguio resthouse.

Thus, Felipe Mayoya's art continues to flow from his work and his life, and it is this strong, pure connection that makes them special. Why not view them at the Metropolitan Art Gallery at SM Megamall before Mayoya's exhibit ends on May 16?





TOP. "Anthurium," 19"x 27," watercolor. Left, "Galing Bundok," 171/4" x 12," watercolor.



"PINITAS Ni Mang Pepe." 19" x 27," watercolor. The motifs in this paining harken to the artist's other occupation as a gardener.

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Fashion Show Schedule:

May 13	Rockwell Mall	4:00 - 5:00 pm
May 20	SM Bacoor	3:00 - 4:00 pm
May 27	SM North Edsa	4:00 - 5:00 pm
June 3	SM Southmall	3:00 - 4:00 pm
June 10	SM City Manila	4:00 - 5:00 pm
June 16	SM Pampanga	3:00 - 5:00 pm

How to join ?

School Cool Coloring Contest

1. This contest is open to all young girls from ages 4-11 years old
2. For every purchase of a Barbie School Cool doll, a customer gets a coloring board. Simply color the picture illustrated using any coloring material like crayons, watercolor, etc
3. Attach with the entry the proof of purchase of the Barbie School Cool Doll found at the side of the packaging/bag
4. Place entry inside a brown envelope and drop at designated dropboxes on designated areas or handcarry/mail to: Barbie School Cool Coloring Contest
c/o Richwell Trading Corporation # 25 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City 1100
5. Deadline for submission of entries will be on August 15, 2001
6. Criteria for judging:
Creativity 50% Originality 30% Content/Message 20%
7. Judging will be held at the Richwell head office on September 15, 2001. A participant can only win once, if she wins more than once, she gets the bigger prize
8. Employees of Richwell Trading Corporation, its sister companies and participating outlets including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion
9. Prizes are as follows:
1st Prize: Php10,000 cash + Gift pack + Free BFC membership
2nd Prize: Php7,000 cash + Gift pack + Free BFC membership
3rd Prize: Php3,000 cash + Gift pack + Free BFC membership
10. Winners will be notified by registered mail
11. Winners can claim their prizes at the Richwell Trading Corporation Head Office upon presentation of a valid identification card and the registered mail

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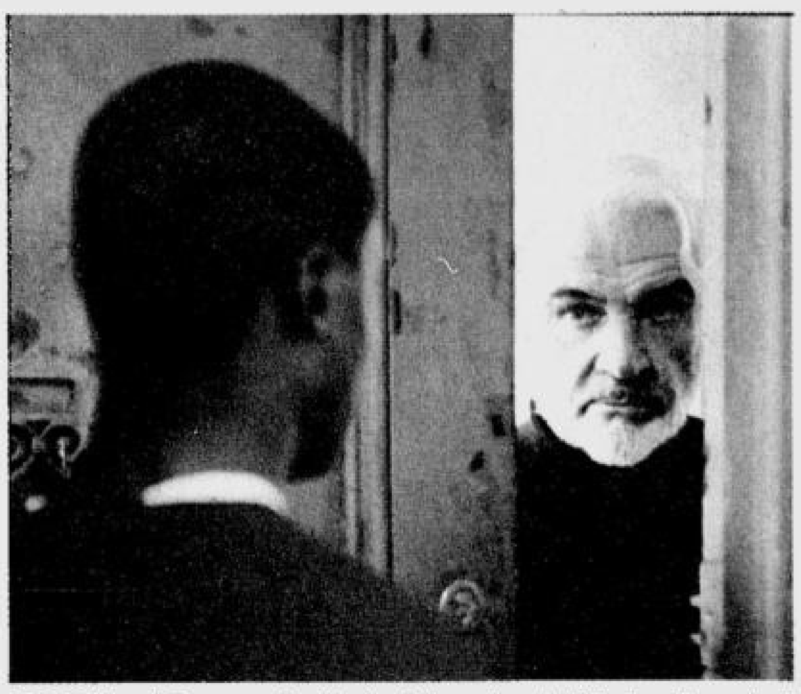
'Finding Forrester' is a treatise on living and writing



BROWN and Connery play the lead characters in "Finding Forrester."

By Tess Glinoga

WRITING is such a lonely job, but it's a favorite topic of Hollywood movies, the latest of which is "Finding Forrester."

Loneliness

Such loneliness is seen in the hermetic life of William Forrester, played by Sean Connery. Forrester's only access to the outside world is his window, from his corner apartment that faces the streets and the basketball court where he watches every person there, including Jamal Wallace, played by Ron Brown.

Wild stories go around the neighborhood that Forrester is a criminal. The boys in the 'hood decide to break into Forrester's apartment. Jamal decides to climb the fire escape—which leads to a fateful meeting between him and the mystery man, between the master and the protégé.

Forrester as a one-book author is as popular as his only published must-read book, titled "A Season of Faith's Perfection." Even decades after its first publication, his protégé learns that Forrester still collects royalties from it.

Forrester succeeds in bringing out the best in his protégé. He succeeds in helping Jamal overcome his fears and discover his strength to become a remarkable writer—in the same way that Jamal succeeds in helping Forrester come out of his hermetic shell.

But as the movie develops, we discover the reason for this loneliness. Perhaps it is not loneliness that he feels but the fear he experiences in dealing with his illness.

Friendship

At the end, both Jamal and Forrester discover a friendship that transcends their mentor-protégé relationship, the anchor that will see them through their separate journeys in life and death.

Any Sean Connery movie is not to be missed. I never liked him in his James Bond movies, but he's one of the few Hollywood actors who have aged gracefully, like the best wine.

"Finding Forrester" is not just a mentor-protégé movie. It has successfully deconstructed the ills of society and illustrates the travails we experience in our everyday life: The constant struggle against discrimination—the reason for the valid observation of Anna Paquin as Claire, Jamal's classmate and romantic interest, why it should be all black and white for Jamal

Envy

This leaves his professor, Crawford, green with envy. Crawford keeps a skeleton in his closet. Once upon a time after Forrester's only book got published, he wrote a manuscript and attempted to have it published but failed miserably to impress publishers, a good decision for the publishers, says Forrester. Crawford, instead chooses to become a teacher.

Such a display of weak character, Crawford has. Through years of being a professor in the prestigious Mailor-Callow prep school, he terrorizes his students, stifling their growth not just as writers but as human beings by closing the doors for their potentials to explore their artistic imagination, and exercise their freedom to think and express themselves.

As Forrester puts it: many know the rules of writing but do not know how to write. He ascribes this to Crawford, who considers teaching the craft of writing as his sacred turf, and regards anyone more talented than he as a threat, and anybody who knows how to write becomes a constant reminder of how paltry his skills in writing are.

Thus, he schemes to put Wallace, "that basketball player from the Bronx," out of his turf and forever erase him from the face of Mailor-Callow by accusing him of plagiarism, more specifically of Forrester's title. Forrester warns: A failed writer can be both dangerous and a threat.

Perhaps, in essence, this reflects the state of struggling scriptwriters. Producers tend to assess their personalities according to what types of personalities please them. It's always good to have a healthy rapport with your work mates. However, keeping the relationship personal prevents them from appreciating the merits of their works and passes up the opportunity of discovering new scriptwriters—definitely a loss for the movies, whose record lately shows its dwindling clout with more intelligent viewers.

Measly amount

For some scriptwriters to succeed, they have mustered the skills of kowtowing to producers, who in turn exploit the situation by paying them a measly amount for a well-written script.

I know of one multi-awarded scriptwriter who shuns awards. But in this highly competitive industry, one needs a string of awards to convince producers that he is a brilliant writer, as if this is an assurance for a good script. This brings us to the question of Forrester when he asks Wallace what he feels when somebody tells him that he cannot do something, alluding to Crawford's judgment that Wallace may not be good enough to be able to write a remarkable piece or work.

A weaker character would have easily folded and succumbed to criticism, but Wallace maintained his confidence and said that nobody can tell somebody what he can and cannot do.

Forrester says that the best part of the whole writing process is after the first draft, when the author gets to read it before anybody breaks it down.

Amusingly, "Finding Forrester" is a quick lesson in writing: First, just pound those keys. For the first draft, don't think. For the second draft, that's when you must think. Maybe all one needs is a soul to be able to write something on a blank sheet. Later, one will need a mind to correct the grammar and syntax of the manuscript, to put it in order.

Stars as role models for young people

By Kathleen Angeli Torre

WHETHER we admit it or not, we young people unusually look for role models we can look up to, who can serve as good examples for how we should live our lives. Can any role models be found in the world of show business?

Complicated lives

When asked this question, most young people we talked to had difficulty in coming up with an answer. Most show biz people lead complicated lives, some of which end up in the tabloids when scandals explode. Still, some of our interviewees managed to discover real gold among the glitzy and glamorous:

"*Miriam Quiambao*. She proudly projected herself as a Filipina in the Miss Universe tilt, not in a brash western way—she was graceful and very sweet. She knew what the judges were looking for and she knew how to use it to her advantage. She didn't say anything that went against her beliefs.

"She was brought up to be conservative and even though she wore a revealing swimsuit, she acted naturally. She carries herself well and I admire her poise."—*Ruth Angara, 23*

Inner person

"*Zsa Zsa Padilla*. She's extremely nice to a lot of people. She's someone who really knows how to look at the inner person, and not just at physical appearance. She says good things about people and avoids gossip. She's a friend to people especially during hard times.

"You don't hear her making *iskandalo* on television. She's very polite and has *delicadeza*. She avoids stepping on other people's feelings. She's a humble person—and she's a great singer, too!"—*Patricia Gomez, 21*

"My choice is *Sharon Cuneta*. She was a single mom, she raised her kid and still managed to sustain her relationship with her family. She's a sweet and thoughtful person. I always hear her thanking the people who have helped her. Such an attitude in a very successful person is admirable.

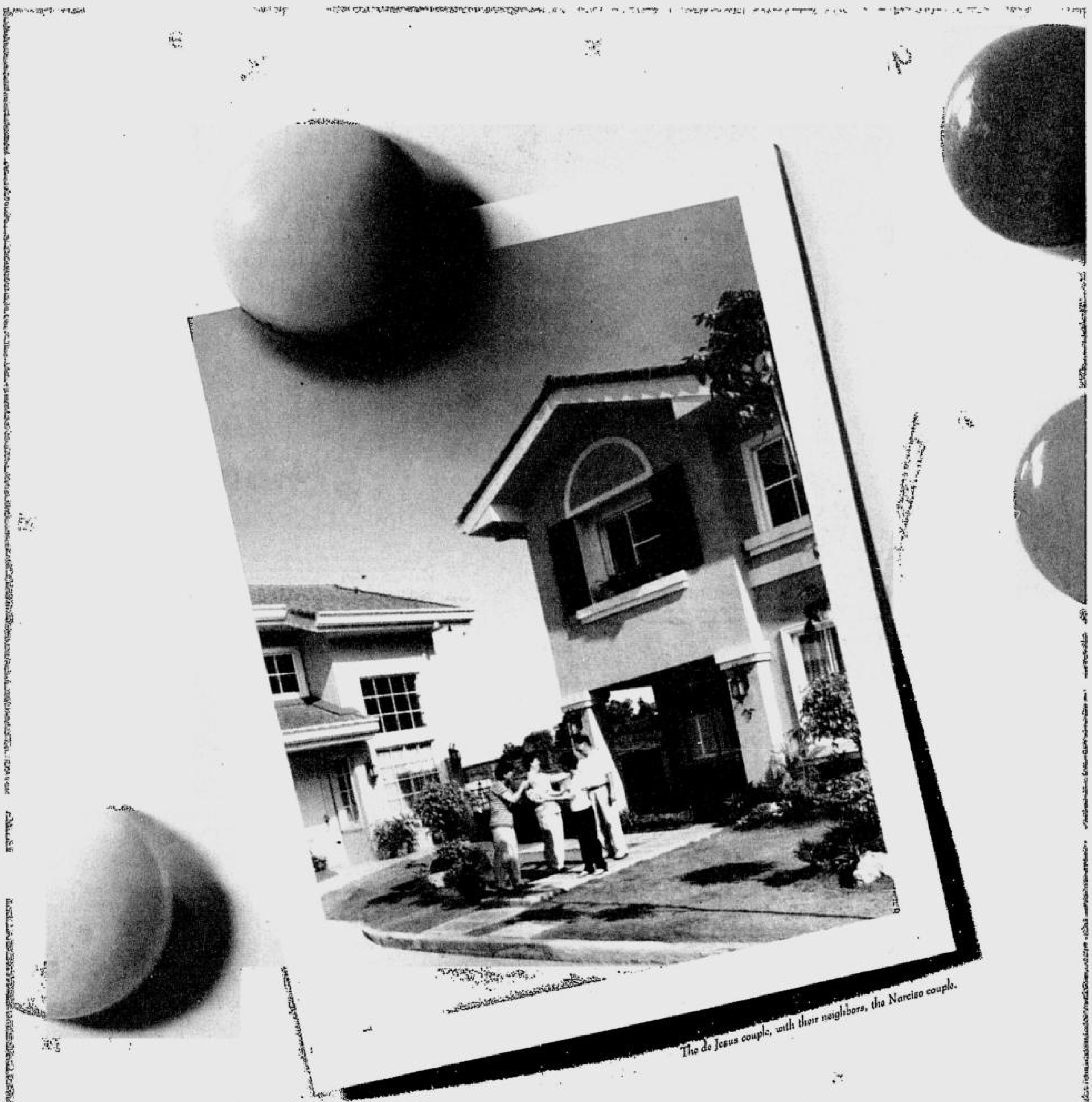
"I also think she has a healthy relationship with Kiko. I admire her knack for survival. She's been through a lot but she still manages to be happy and make other people happy, too. Her success in her career and how she keeps it going is a good example for everybody."—*Tatum Hontiveros, 20*

Good parent

"*Maricel Laxa*, although she hasn't been very active these past few years. She's a good mom, she knows what's best for her kids, and that's what she gives them. She's a good parent, someone who knows what to prioritize—which is her family, of course. She balances her life very well.

"I hear she's got a lot of projects but she always seems to be in command of everything. She doesn't take things for granted. It would be nice to see her again on TV—but not at the expense of her family time."—*Rose Flores, 19*

"I think *Vilma Santos* is a great role model. She's a good actress and she has had a very successful TV-movie career. I like the fact that she was able to lift herself from being an actress, and opted for public service. She's very concerned about other people's welfare, and she takes good care of her family, despite her being so busy with her political work."—*Nadja Lorente, 22*



The de Jesus couple, with their neighbors, the Narciso couple.

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-Jose de Jesus, Ferndale Homes resident since December, 2000

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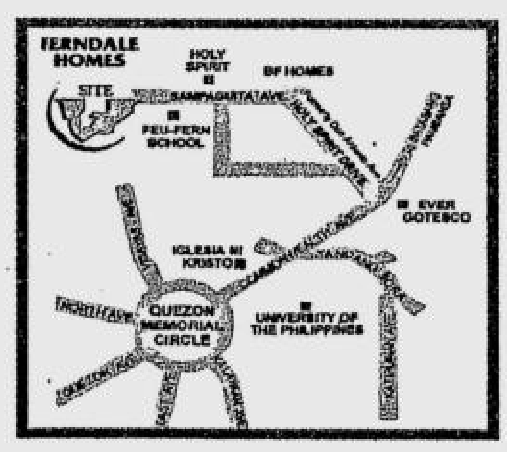

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Saturday SPECIAL

Donita Rose stars in GMA's 'Larawan' series

DONITA ROSE. Passion for comedy.

By Edmund L. Sicam

DONITA Rose is the latest actress to showcase her acting prowess on the GMA 7 drama anthology, "Larawan." She will appear in four episodes this month, starting Wednesday, May 9 at 9 p.m. The first episode features her with Janno Gibbs. The second episode, "Amgirl," is a heavy drama with Hilda Koronel and Gladys Reyes as guests. In the third episode, Donita's co-stars are Ian Veneracion, Dante Rivero and Carmi Martin. For the final episode, Zoren Legaspi plays Donita's love interest in the story.

Nervous

Donita says she was excited to do "Larawan." However, she was also very nervous at the thought of doing "real" acting once again. "The last time I did real acting was . . . three years ago?" she asks herself, still unsure. Because of this, she specifically told her manager, Angeli Pangilinan-Valenciano, that she didn't want to do heavy drama. "*Gusto ko* light, and comedy. Because I really, really have a passion for comedy. You can make me work from 7 am 'til 10 am the next day. If it's comedy, *talagang ganado ako*!" She shares that as an MTV VJ, she always likes to make people laugh.

She is especially excited to be acting with Janno on her first episode, "Kidnap for Love." "He's the one person I really admire," she gushes.

However, she still had to do heavy drama. She says that she had a particularly difficult time with the second episode because, ironically, her life has been going great. "I have not shed one tear in the past two-and-a-half years."

"What I really find hard in acting is the range of emotions required. *Magumpisa ka sa tawa*, then there's a revelation, disappointment, anger, rage. It's like, how do you get from point A to point D in one scene?"

When she saw the script, she told the production staff, "*Huwag niyo naman ako bigyan ng* five crying scenes *na sunod-sunod*! She shares her anxiety about the situation: "*Kasi* I'll make *puyat* the whole night, and then *minsan sunod-sunod iyung* crying scenes. You only have so much water in your body!"

She also felt a bit nervous sharing the screen with drama icon Hilda Koronel: "When I came to the set of 'Amgirl,' I was like, '*Uy, sinong kapareha ko?*'" When she was told that it was Hilda Koronel, she wailed, "*Haaay*! Why? *Why?*"

However, her view of the award-winning actress changed upon meeting her. "When I saw her, I was so scared. But when I got to meet her in person, she

DONITA/p.E2

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'The Sixth Sense' screened on Star Movies this month

By Nestor U. Torre

TIME was when it took years for a film to end up on television. But the process has been accelerating of late, so the 1999 hit, "The Sixth Sense," has slated its TV premiere on Star Movies on May 20 (at 9 p.m.) and May 31 (at 9 p.m.).

Real treat

This is a real treat for movie buffs because the Bruce Willis starrer is an intimate production, so it won't lose too much of its impact when it's shown on TV.

The movie thrilled moviegoers with its subtly scary story about a boy (Haley Joel Osment) who saw dead people. Its plot twist in the end made the film even scarier because it put the doctor played by Willis in a new and more chilling light.

Confused by his paranormal powers, young Osment's character was too young to understand why all this was happening to (and through) him, so the doctor played by Willis was an extremely important factor in making sure that the tormented boy didn't go over the brink.

Demons

When it was revealed that even Willis had a disturbing secret to tell, the boy realized that, in the final analysis, he had to contend with and master his own demons.

Aside from "The Sixth Sense," Star Movies has other notable offerings this month:

May 7 at 7:15 p.m., "Dressed to Kill" with Angie Dickinson, Michael Caine and Nancy Allen.

May 10 at 9 p.m., "The Phantom Menace" with Liam Neeson, Ewan McGregor and Natalie Portman.

May 12 at 10:30 p.m., "Fight Club" with Brad Pitt, Edward Norton and Helena Bouham Carter. In this film, a confused young man and his devious friend create a new club where men relieve their frustrations in life by fighting bare-fisted.

May 15 at 9 p.m., "Forever Fever" with Adrian Pang and Madeleine Tan. A bored young man bitten by the disco bug undergoes a dramatic transformation.

Vacation

May 22 at 9 p.m., "Brokedown Palace" with Claire Danes, Ken Beckinsdale and Bill Pullman. Two high school friends go on vacation in Bangkok, but when they're tricked into heroin and find themselves in jail, their only hope may be a sleazy lawyer.

May 22 at 10:45 p.m., "Silicon Towers" with Brian Pennehy, Daniel Baldwin and Robert Gillaume.

May 24 at 7 p.m., "The Hand that Rocks the Cradle." Demented, revenge-seeking nanny (Rebecca De Mornay) takes a job with an unsuspecting couple (Annabella Sciorra and Matt McCoy). It turns out that De Mornay's husband committed suicide after he had been accused of assault by Sciorra, so De Mornay avenges herself by terrorizing her and trying to seduce her husband.

Derivative shocker

Some good performances boost this otherwise derivative shocker. Tension builds, but the gruesome finale is fairly predictable.

May 28 at 9 p.m., "Holy Man" with Eddie Murphy, Jeff Goldblum and Kelly Preston. An inspirational guru who believes shopping by TV is a near-religious experience turns out to be a marketing genius, and takes a shopping network, then an entire country, by storm!

WILLIS AND OSMENT. Disturbing secrets.

Neon glitter

May 29 at 9 p.m., "One From the Heart" with Frederick Forrest, Teri Garr and Raul Julia. A romantic musical comedy set against the neon glitter of Las Vegas.

It follows the story of two people who have lost the romance in their lives. This film's strength is its visuals, but its slim plot and surreal approach are possible turn-offs. A must for the curious—others beware! Directed by Francis Ford Coppola.

P.S.: Star Movies is also screening "American Pie" on May 7 at 9 p.m., if scatological comedy is your cup of titillation . . .

What Filipino scriptwriters can learn from Writers Guild of America's ongoing struggle

By Ramon Rey E. Bayron

THE Screenwriters Guild of the Philippines is advised to join the rest of the international community of writers in, at the very least, observing the outcome of the on-going bargaining talks between the Writers Guild of America (West and East) and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP).

Cudgels

The WGA (West and East) is taking up the cudgels for film and television writers all over the world through this negotiation that will most likely influence the practices on other local film industries elsewhere with regards to screenwriters' rights and privileges.

WGA is placing on the bargaining table demands on creative and economic issues in the theatrical motion picture, television and new media industries.

In a nutshell, these Hollywood writers are asking for fatter paychecks for residuals and reruns, and that producers employ the writer during the production of the film/teleplay with the role of contributing in the creative process (script revisions, cast readings, research screenings, production meetings, etc).

The practice is nothing new in Manila as most writers, especially in television, are already required to appear on the set, often for the duration of the whole taping (1-2 days)—with only one important exception: the WGA demands that such writer's participation be treated as "employment.

If that term means additional expense on the part of the producers, then opposition from the AMPTP is to be expected (I wonder what Mother Lily would say to that).

Resource

But Mr. Karzan in his WGA website article defends: "We are a resource that directors and companies often ignore or underutilize, and the movies themselves suffer. In many cases, when problems arise, we are the ones who have the answer—and we aren't around to provide it.

"Our proposals encourage companies and directors to include writers both in the creative process and in certain venues that confer to imply a measure of respect."

John Wells, WGAW President, is quoted regarding the issue as saying: "Screenwriters and long-form television writers are dismissed as secondary figures, refused the most basic creative rights due. It's intolerable that the author of the work can be barred from the set of his own project.

"It's a disgrace that the author of a film is not included in press junkets and invited to premieres. It's unpardonable that the author is not invited to the read-through of her own work, provided with dailies, given a daily call sheet…

"It is long past time that these creative rights be fully addressed in our MBA. If we can't achieve them in negotiations, we will achieve them on the picket line."

Writers are generally perceived in the film community to be the most "submissive" lot, thus such strong and radical statements from the WGAW president have caught the producers and directors quite by surprise.

Guidance

That WGA would get what they want, and such would then be use for the guidance of other writers' guild around the world, is still a question. But one thing is clear, the WGA is up for a tough fight.

Already, the Directors' Guild of America (DGA) has published its stand regarding the writers' proposals, pointing to the fact that, at least in the US, the directors are watching what the writers are doing.

DGA says on its website: "The DGA believes the WGA should immediately pull from the table its so-called creative rights proposals because of the harm they would do not only to directors but also to the entire industry. If the proposals are not withdrawn, the DGA believes the AMPTP should reject them out of hand."

But the most controversial item on the writers' agenda is neither creative nor economic, it is the authorship issue. The WGA is objecting to the use of the "vanity" tag-line "A film by" followed by the director's name, giving sole authorship of the film to the director. *(To be concluded)*

Movies on TV this week

ON the HBO channel, May 5, Saturday, 6 a.m., "Double Platinum." 7:30 a.m., "Kidnapped In Paradise." 9:15 a.m., "Poodle Springs." 11 a.m., "Mutiny." 12:30 p.m., "Legacy." 2:15 p.m., "The Girl Next Door." 4 p.m., "Almost Heroes." 5:45 p.m., "Houdini." 7:30 p.m., "New World Disorder." 9 p.m., "Lost and Found." 10:45 p.m., "Antz." 12:10 a.m., "Backdraft." 2:30 a.m., "Paternity." 4:15 a.m., "Implicated."

'You've Got Mail'

May 6, Sunday, 6 a.m., "Racing With The Moon." 8 a.m., "Bopha!" 10 a.m., "Trading Places." 12 p.m., "Dark Tides." 1:30 p.m., "The Dream Team." 3:30 p.m., "Road Rage." 5 p.m., "The Hunley." 6:30 p.m., "Roswell: The Aliens Attack." 8 p.m., "You've Got Mail." 10 p.m., "I Still Know What You Didi Last Summer." 11:40 p.m., "Addams Family Values." 1:15 a.m., "Woo." 2:45 a.m., "My Little Assassin." 4:15 a.m., "All American Girl: The Mary Kay Letourneau Story."

May 7, Monday, 6 a.m. "The Spring." 7:30 a.m., "Muderous Intent." 9 a.m., "Introducing Dorothy Dandridge: A true Story." 11 a.m., "Labor Pains." 12:30 p.m., "My Stepmother Is An Alien." 2:15 p.m., "Rush Hour." 4 p.m., "Santa And Pete." 5:30 p.m., "Wag the Dog." 7:15 p.m., "Uncle Buck." 9 p.m., "Crash Point Zero." 10:30 p.m., "Matrix." 12:45 a.m., "My Stepmother Is An Alien." 2:30 a.m., "Outside Ozona." 4:15 a.m., "Rush Hour."

May 8, Tuesday, 6 a.m., 'New World Disorder." 7:45 a.m., "American Movie." 9:30 a.m., "The Burbs." 11:15 a.m., "Implicated." 1 p.m., "Star Trek Insurrection." 2:45 p.m., "Poodle Springs." 4:30 p.m., "Paternity." 6 p.m., "Double Platinum." 7:30 p.m., "Almost Heroes." 9 p.m., "The Iron Giant." 10:30 p.m., "Sex And The City 23: Evolution/ 26: The F*** Buddy." 11:30 p.m., "Legacy."

"INTRODUCING DOROTHY DANDRIDGE." Airs 9 a.m., May 7 on HBO.

1:15 a.m., "Star Trek Insurrection." 3 a.m., "Kidnapped in Paradise." 4:30 a.m., "Almost Heroes."

'Les Miserables'

May 9, Wednesday, 6 a.m., "Dark Tides." 7:30 a.m., "The Perfect Tenant." 9 a.m., "Road Rage." 10:30 a.m., "Absence of the Good." 12:15 p.m., ""Lost and Found." 2 p.m., "Roswell: The Aliens Attack." 3:30 p.m., "Thick as Thieves." 5 p.m., "Trading Places." 7 p.m., "Hero." 9 p.m., "Les Miserables (1998)" 11:20 p.m., "The Girl Next Door." 1 a.m., "Lost and Found." 2:45 a.m., "Whatever." 4:30 a.m., "Hero."

May 10, Thursday, 6:30 a.m., "Jewel." 8 a.m., "Houdini." 9:30 a.m., "A league of their Own." 11:30 a.m., "Lost in the Bermuda Triangle." 1 p.m., "I Still Know What You Did Last Summer." 2:45 p.m., "Before He Wakes." 4:30 p.m., "Born in East L.A." 6 p.m., "Murderous Intent." 7:30 p.m., "Mutiny." 9 p.m., "You've Got Mail." 11 p.m., "The Great Outdoors." 12:30 a.m., "A League of their Own." 2:45 a.m., "I Still Know What You Did Last Summer" 4:30 a.m., "Labor Pains."

May 11, Friday, 6 a.m., "Santa and Pete." 7:45 a.m., "Poodle Springs." 9:30 a.m., "The Dream Team." 11:30 a.m., "Antz." 1 p.m., "Woo." 2:30 p.m., "Bopha!" 4:30 p.m., "All American Girl: The Mary Kay Letourneau Story." 6 p.m., "Tick-Tock." 7:30 p.m., "New World Disorder." 9 p.m., "The Corruptor." 11 p.m., "The Big Hit." 12:30 a.m., "Sex and the City 23: Evolution/ 26: The F*** Buddy." 1:30 a.m., "Antz." 3 a.m., "Racing with the Moon." 4:45 a.m., "New World Disorder."

'An Unexpected Life'

On the Cinemax channel, May 5, Saturday, 6 a.m., "An Unexpected Life." 7:30 a.m., "The Silencer." 9 a.m., "The Final Cut." 10:45 a.m., "Police Academy 6 City Under Siege." 12:15 p.m., "Suicide Kings." 2 p.m., "The Skull." 3:30 p.m., "Dead Husbands." 5 p.m., "Florence Nightingale." 7:30 p.m., "Sweet Revenge." 9 p.m., "Mickey Blue Eyes." 10:45 p.m., "A twist of faith." 12:20 a.m., "The Silencer." 1:55 a.m., "White Palace." 3:30 a.m., "Looking for Alibrandi." 5:15 a.m., "Celebrity Profiles: Gene Hackman."

May 6, Sunday, 6 a.m., "10." 8 a.m., "Hoods." 9:30 a.m., "Money Kings." 11 a.m., "Valentine's Day." 12:30 p.m., "The Legend of 1900." 2:30 p.m., "Breathtaking." 4:15 p.m., "My Girl." 6 p.m., "Meet Joe Black." 9 p.m., "The Right Temptation." 10:30 p.m., "White Tiger." 12 a.m., "Hoods." 1:30 a.m. "Hit List." 3 a.m., "In Harm's Way."

'My American Vacation'

May 7, Monday, 6 a.m., "Mo' Money." 7:30 a.m., "Firefox." 9:45 a.m., "Terror in the Mall." 11:15 a.m., "Deadly Relations." 12:45 p.m., "Primal Force." 2:15 p.m., "My American Vacation." 3:45 p.m., "The Big Chill." 5:30 p.m., "The Fifth Corner." 7 p.m., "Edtv." 9 p.m., "Meet Prince Charming." 10:45 p.m., "Terror in the Mall." 12:15 a.m., "Primal Force." 1:45 a.m., "Pillow Talk." 3:45 a.m., "Edtv."

May 8, Tuesday, 6 a.m., "Kill Line." 7:30 a.m., "Valentine's Day." 9 a.m., "Celebrity Profiles: John Travolta." 10 a.m., "White Palace." 11:45 a.m., "Jane and the Lost City." 1:15 p.m., "Purgatory." 2:45 p.m., "Wanted Dead or Alive." 4:30 p.m., "Splitting Heirs." 6 p.m., "A Child Lost Forever." 7:30 p.m., "The First 9 ½ Weeks." 9 p.m., "Friday the 13th Part VII—The New Blood." 10:30 p.m., "Pirates of Silicon Valley." 12 a.m., "A Soldier's Sweetheart." 1:45 a.m., "Purgatory." 3:15 a.m., "Thief of Hearts." 4:45 a.m., "Wanted Dead or Alive."

May 9, Wednesday, 6:30 a.m., "Maid to Order." 8 a.m., 'The Curse of the Mummy's Tomb." 9:15 a.m., "Cypress Edge." 10:45 a.m., "A Stranger Among Us." 12:30 p.m., "Florence Nightingale." 2:45 p.m., "Dying to Live." 4:15 p.m., "Harris Down Under." 6 p.m., "Third Degree Burn." 7:30 p.m., "Dead Husbands." 9 p.m., "Map of the Human Heart." 10:45 p.m., "Cypress Edge." 12:15 a.m., "The Final Cut." 1:50 a.m., "Dying to Live." 3:15 a.m., "The Hell With Heroes." 5 a.m. "D.C. Cab."

'A Twist of Faith'

May 10, Thursday, 6:30 a.m., "Meet Prince Charming." 8:15 a.m., "An Unexpected Life." 9:45 a.m., "A Twist of Faith." 11:30 a.m., "My Girl." 1:15 p.m. "Firefox." 3:30 p.m., "Celebrity Profiles John Travolta." 4:30 p.m., "The Skull." 6 p.m., "Sweet Revenge." 7:30 p.m., "The Right Temptation." 9 p.m., "Return to Paradise." 11 p.m., "Firefox." 1:10 a.m., "The Silencer." 2:45 a.m., "My Girl." 4:30 a.m., "The Right Temptation."

May 11, Friday, 6 a.m., "Looking for Alibrandi." 7:45 a.m., "Mickey Blue Eyes." 9:30 a.m., "In Harm's Way." 12:15 p.m., "Beyond Justice." 2 p.m., "The First 9 ½ Weeks." 3:45 p.m., "Sweet Liberty." 5:30 p.m., "A Soldier's Sweetheart." 7:30 p.m., "White Tiger." 9 p.m., "Frank Herbert's Dune Part 1." 10:45 p.m., "Mickey Blue Eyes." 12:25 a.m., "Dream House." 1:55 a.m., "Meet Joe Black." 5 a.m., "Celebrity Profiles. Gene Hackman."

Donita Rose . . .

(From page E1)

was so down-to-earth. I got to know her personally, like how old she is, her kids, what her life is like away from work. I have this newfound respect for her."

First scene

The first scene she did was with Hilda, and it was a major dramatic scene. She felt very proud of herself because she found it was easy to get into her character, and she cried very easily. "I realized after doing that episode, if your co-actors are very good, and they see it as a give-and-take relationship, you don't have to work so hard. You don't have to kill your entire family just to cry a tear!"

"So when I did the scene with them, wow! *Na*-touch *ako*. It was easy because I didn't feel like I had to pretend, I felt like I was in the scene. It was kinda like a revelation to me in terms of acting. I'm no longer a fanatic of method acting."

She also raves about soap opera veteran, Gladys Reyes. "I've seen Gladys in 'Mara Clara.' I knew she was good, but I didn't know she was *that* good!" She was particularly impressed that Glady's lines were so long, yet she got all of them right, and mostly on the first take.

She also reveals that she was supposed to do a final scene where she was the only one onscreen.

Very tired

It was the final dramatic moment of the story where she is supposed to break into in tears. It was the last scene they shot, it was three in the morning, so she was very tired.

She tried very hard to come up with a convincing performance. She says she was able to cry, but that her heart wasn't in it. She felt she came across as "trying hard."

"I couldn't do it anymore. I had a hard time, because of my luck now, my life is so (good) . . . I really had a hard time." She can foresee what people will say about her because of this. "*Alam mo, sabihin na nila(ng), hindi ako marunong umarte, wala akong pakialam*! I didn't do it. *Di ko na kaya*."

Maybe they should have listened to her and just given her light drama and comedy roles.

Language barrier

Donita shares that perhaps the hardest movie role she has ever essayed was her role as Faustina. She cites the language barrier as the first reason. Secondly, it required very heavy acting. Thirdly, she had to contend with her personal beliefs as a Christian, and not let it get in the way of her portraying not only a Catholic, but a nun at that!

She says that she has been wanting to do more movies. She has offers to do movies with Aga Muhlach and then Robin Padilla, but they haven't materialized.

Asked if she would agree to guest former boyfriend Gary Estrada in one of her episodes, she reveals that he was supposed to star in her final episode, "DJ Love." About the news that Gary is going to be married soon, she declares, "I'm sincerely happy for them, because I myself have moved on. I think he's much better off with someone who has the same vision as him for what they want in the future."

No boyfriend

Donita says that she hasn't had a boyfriend for almost two years now. "I am single by choice," she declares. Although her last boyfriend was also a Christian, there were intimacy issues on which they didn't agree. "He believes in a certain degree of intimacy, like cuddling and kissing. I know it's a bit extreme, but I would like to wait, until I get married. I think holding hands is fine, and cuddling, but sometimes it leads to other things."

She shares that they parted ways amicably. "We are still friends. My ex-ex still calls me and my ex-ex-ex is getting married!!!!" she says, teasing herself. "I'm happy *naman*. I believe that if you sacrifice something for the greater good, you will be rewarded more."

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chicco (ki-kō)

David Boreanaz wants your heart

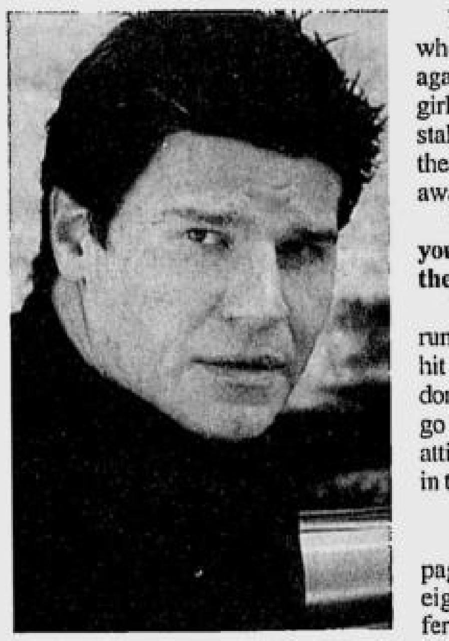
AS far as 243-year-old undead men go, it's tough to find a sexier one than David Boreanaz.

The vampire with a soul has been on the fast-track of TV hunkdom ever since he locked lips with Sarah Michelle Gellar as the blood sucker she couldn't resist in a 1997 guest appearance on "Buffy the Vampire Slayer."

Ratings

Viewer response—as in, fluttering female hearts—got him his own spinoff, and in the second season of "Angel," he's racking up the kind of ratings that might make "Buffy" jealous.

Now, Boreanaz jumps to the big screen with Warner Bros.' new suspense-thriller "Valentine," directed by Jamie Blanks ("Urban Legends") and co-starring Denise Richards and Marley Shelton.


BOREANAZ. Vampire with a soul.

He plays Adam, a sportswriter who's been trying to keep up his on-again, off-again relationship with his girlfriend (Shelton) while she's being stalked by a mysterious killer. As for the ending, we wouldn't dare give away the murderer's identity. Q & A:

This film is a lot different from your television work. Did you enjoy the experience?

David: Yes, it was great. In the long run it's all kind of the same thing: you hit your mark; you learn your lines; don't bump into the furniture; then you go home. That's the Spencer Tracy attitude. It's how I think, whether it's in television or film or theater.

Only difference

With film you get to work on two pages a day. Television, you have eight pages a day. So the only difference is the time process. With episodic television you have eight days per episode and shooting an hour drama is tough. With film you have two and a half months, maybe three months to prepare for something.

That was great. I got bit by that bug for sure. It was nice, but I would never say, "Hey, I'm going to leave my show" because of this experience. I would never do anything like that. I enjoy each process.

Did you have a good Valentine's Day this year?

No, never. I don't think anybody does. It's a Hallmark holiday. [LAUGHS] I have never had a good Valentine on the actual day so it's usually a wash. Well actually my father's birthday is on Valentine's Day, so that's the best thing about the holiday for me.

Have you always been a hunk?

Not exactly. [LAUGHS] In grade school and growing up, I had my shortcomings and crazy hair and braces and bad skin. We all go through it.

How did you find your path to acting?

It just kind of happened. I fell into it. It is just something I enjoy. I love it. I wasn't pushed into this direction. Nobody's pulled me into this so I'm having fun. I continue to learn from it and that's the best I can do.

What are your career goals as far as your film career is concerned?

There are no real goals. I'm not really a goal-oriented person, with a list of things I need to do. I've always been tapped more into following my dreams. I think that believing in something that seems impossible to achieve, and then attaining it, and learning from it, is what is important.

Fulfillment

Being able to grow as a person with whatever I'm taking on, whatever project I'm doing, learning from it, that's what I want to kind of accomplish in my career. Being able to look back at it and say, "well I tried this, it didn't work; but I learned from it." That would be my ultimate fulfillment in life.

Your character in "Valentine" is both strong and vulnerable, what part was easier to play?

I enjoy creating a lot of those types of personalities. They're both very difficult. I try to as honest as I possibly can and be as truthful as I can with portraying each side. It's definitely hard to achieve that level of honesty. And that's what you want to try to do everyday with any character.

I know you expect screams from the audience in "Valentine." Do you ever watch horror films and really get scared?

"Halloween" scared me. That Michael Meyers mask scared the hell out of me. I remember being in the audience for "Jaws," and that scene when the divers come down and the dead body goes up scared the hell out of me—I spilled my popcorn all over.

I was sitting in the front row with my friend Alex. I was 7 years old, and I was, like, piss white. It was terrifying.

Young people pick best music videos

BY KATHLEEN ANGELI TORRE

COMPUTER animation and special effects are two things that you'll find in most of today's music videos, but it's how you use them that matters. Some music videos just have too many elements and effects, and you have a hard time absorbing it all.

Violence

The same goes for violence—that's why music channels rarely show some of Madonna's recent videos on TV, for fear that teens and disturbed people might imitate what they see.

One video has Madonna driving a car with her grandmother—and she bumps and crashes on anything that blocks her way.

What are some of today's young people's most-favored music videos? Some youths' responses:

"I think the video of 'Gusto Ko Ng Baboy' by Radioactive Sago Project is one of the best. Technically, their music is good and they have innovative and creative lyrics.

"What their songs say makes sense, more than the usual shallow meanings, of love that the other bands sing about. I like the simplicity of the color that they use for the video-sepia. It's simple, straight to the point but it has quality.

"The video is in pace with the rhythm of the music and it doesn't overpower it. It's well-balanced and *gawa ng Pinoy*."—*Eunice Quiñones, 11*

"I have to say 'My Love Don't Cost A Thing' by Jennifer Lopez. I like its being simple and symbolic. No high-tech effects were used but it got its message across.

"The title itself tells us that love isn't measured by how much money you have. That love doesn't have to be extravagant and materialistic. That you can enjoy love without much expense and hassle.

Refreshing

"I agree with the video that you can love someone who's not wealthy, that it's a matter of giving importance to the person you love. It's a really refreshing and relaxing music video."—*Pretchyl Victor, 20*

"Definitely Alanis Morissette's video of 'Ironic,' starting with its original concept: Alanis driving a car with three other Alanises as passengers. Each Alanis character is different from the rest. I haven't seen any other music video like it yet.

"I think it's part of the concept that the video doesn't really jibe with the music. That's what I like most about the video, that way you can pay more attention to the good lyrics and have something to look at at the same time."—*Toni Villanueva, 17*

"I like 'Kiss Me' by Sixpence None The Richer, it's the best. It's the most wholesome video I've seen. What I like best are the pictures. It's a simple way of showing how pictures can make you recall fond memories and tell stories.

Girl

"I appreciate it more because I'm able to relate with the girl in the video—her feeling of wanting and pining after something very badly!"—*Joanne Estrella, 21*

"Californication" by Red Hot Chilli Peppers. I really like seeing videos that use computer animation—you create an artwork through the use of computer. It's very interesting and funny to see the band members as cartoons. "Aside from the video being an animation, I like the fact that they designed it to look like a computer game. It's a change from the usual videos that use models, actresses. It's creative and gives us a glimpse of future videos."—*Chris Navarro, 16*

MORISSETTE. Video doesn't jibe with the music.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKSHELF

Famous interviewers share their trade secrets

BY NOELANI TORRE

THERE is more to interviewing than just asking questions. What this "more" is is what the authors of the book "Interviewing the World's Top Interviewers" try to find out. Written by Jack Huber and Dean Diggins and published by S.P.I. Books, it shows how 19 of America's top journalists get people to say things they never intended to says in front of millions of viewers.

Insights

The authors' interview with these famed and effective interviewers comprise the bulk of the book, peppered here and there with personal observations and insights.

The experts' comprehensive answers make for a thoroughly absorbing read. If you want to know how to conduct a good interview, just leaf through this book because it's all there.

spi
The Stories Behind The World's Big News Stories
INTERVIEWING THE WORLD'S TOP INTERVIEWERS
The Inside Story of Journalism's Most Momentous Revelations
THE BOOK shows how top journalists get people to say things they never intended to say.

The book is divided into five parts—"Confronting, Prosecuting;" "Presenting the News;" Interviewing Celebrities;" Exploring an Issue;" and "Exploring a Mind." This classification is based on the subjects' interview styles and the kinds of interviews they usually do.

Two journalists are featured in "Confronting, Prosecuting," Mike Wallace and Oriana Fallaci. As the title suggests, these two are quite adept at the adversarial style of interviewing: "They confront and get away with it. At a minimum, they are willing not to be liked, and at a maximum, they have the courage to go the limit and risk the consequences."

Fallaci, the Italian political writer, once began an interview with the Ayatolla Khomeini with "Mr. Khomeini, we all know that you are a tyrant . . ."

At one point during her interview with Deng Xiaoping, he yelled at her and she retorted with a "Do you want to slap me? Do it! I'll write it down here." Yet after that interview Deng asked her if she would honor him with a second one.

Four qualities

When asked why it was so easy for her to do interviews, she answered with an enumeration of the four qualities she, a good interviewer, possessed: the intelligence needed to understand a person and a situation, the imagination to frame certain questions, the courage to ask these questions, and the will to work.

Mike Wallace, mainstay of CBS's "60 Minutes," has been described as "browbeating," "relentless," "theatrical," "fiery," "coaxing," "needling," "audacious," "ruthless." "Yet he is also a charmer. He gets people—all types of people—to like him, and they ultimately like themselves, regardless of his toughness." And then they start opening up—even if they never intended to do so.

His producer said that Wallace had "an enormous curiosity." It is this that prompts him to nag the interviewee until the latter slips or is forced to give an honest answer.

In contrast to Fallaci and Wallace's aggressive approach is Ted Koppel's subtle style. Once the host and interview of ABC's "Nightline" and now a television news anchor, Koppel is greatly admired by his peers and has been called "the smartest and most important man in television."

Natural curiosity

For him, an effective interview must have "a natural curiosity," a good general background," and must not be afraid of people. He believes that "there is no such thing as a boring subject." Mr. Koppel is one of the five journalists included in the book's second part—"Presenting the News." This section is comprised of new journalists, obviously, whom the authors describe as "very serious fellows." *(To be concluded)*

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Stunt casting feels gratuitous in 'One Night at McCool's'

By Christy Lemire

NEW YORK—"One Night at McCool's" alternately serves itself up as a dark comedy, ensemble star showcase and violent shoot-'em-up. The problem is the jokes are only funny sometimes, the stunt casting feels gratuitous after a while and a barrage of bullets at the end is out of place.

So the first major feature by Norwegian-born director Harald Zwart (yet another graduate of commercials and music videos) fails on all three fronts.

Femme fatale

It revolves around a series of events (all occurring one night at McCool's bar) involving a femme fatale named Jewel and the three men who are willing to let her ruin their lives just to be near her.

Each man has a vastly different impression of Jewel, played by Liv Tyler as a breathy, busty, redheaded version of Marilyn Monroe.

Randy (Matt Dillon), a slacker bartender at McCool's, sees her as a cool chick to have around the house (and his bed).

For Randy's cousin Carl (Paul Reiser), a married lawyer trapped in the suburbs, Jewel is a reminder of how passionate and sexy a woman can be.

And for police detective Dehling (John Goodman), Jewel is the sweet, doting reincarnation of his deceased wife.

They're all wrong, of course. Jewel is an opportunistic schemer, but not a terribly ambitious one. All she wants is a little house with a dining room set and a fountain. When she's feeling sad, she simply flips through furniture catalogues; then she doesn't feel so bad.

Yuppie

But she's willing to kill a yuppie for his DVD player, and she doesn't mind washing a car in a flimsy dress to keep the smitten detective from investigating her. Tyler is a convincing sexpot, but the moment plays like a late-night scene on Cinemax.

All the women in this film are manipulative or nagging or both; all the men are bumbling and lascivious. And the closest thing to a likable character is Michael Douglas' hit man. He's the biggest sleaze of all, but it's impossible not to like him simply because he's Michael Douglas. It's just so much fun to watch him in his swept-up pompadour and his polyester duds, conducting business at a bingo parlor.

Reiser also has several funny lines. It's been a couple of years since his sitcom "Mad About You" went off the air, and it's easy to forget how good his timing is. While drooling over Jewel at a family cookout, his Carl deadpans, "It's like having a porn star in my house, except she's making salad."

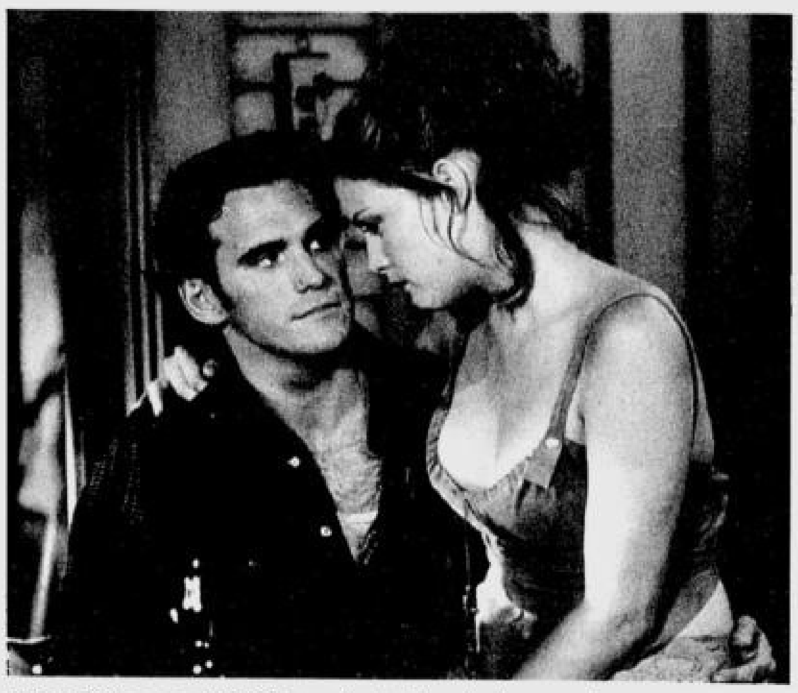
Therapist

Country singer Reba McEntire plays Carl's therapist, but she doesn't get to do much—she's basically a hillbilly version of Dr. Melfi on "The Sopranos." And comedian Andrew "Dice" Clay, who now goes by his real name, Andrew Silverstein, plays both a robber thug and his twin brother.

As a side note, the film is noteworthy for a couple of unusual reasons. It's the first offering from Douglas' production company, Furthur Films. And its screenwriter, first-timer Stan Seidel, died last summer at 48 of complications from Crohn's disease before he could see the film reach theaters.

"One Night at McCool's," a USA Films release, runs 93 minutes.

AP



MATT Dillon and Liv Tyler star in the dark comedy.

Elton John puts his famous cars up for auction

LONDON—Shopaholic Elton John, one of the lavish spenders in pop history, is to sell 20 of his classic luxury cars, auctioneer Christie's announced recently.

The flamboyant singer has just lost a multimillion-pound court battle against his former accountant and ex-manager but Christie's insisted he is selling for practical reasons—he is away so much, he does not get enough time to drive the cars.

Pleasure

"I'd rather they went to people who can get pleasure out of them everyday," said the singer, currently on a world tour.

A spokeswoman from Christie's told Reuters: "We expect the sale will total about one million pounds ($1.4 million) but realize it could fetch much more."

The "Rocket Man" collection is a connoisseur's delight from a Rolls-Royce Silver Cloud nicknamed Daisy to an Aston Martin painted in the colors of Watford football Club—itself once owned by the singer—and named "The Beast."

And as you head down "The Yellow Brick Road" in your Elton John souvenir motor, you can sit back and listen to the multimillionaire's greatest hits in style.

JOHN. Not enough time to drive his cars.

"Music and cars go together," the pop veteran said of the cars, which all boast the highest-quality sound systems.

New tracks

"Traveling by car is when Sir Elton does the bulk of his listening, whether it is appraising mixes of new tracks on the way to the studio, listening to material he loves or the week's new releases," Christie's said in a statement.

John was once said to have a record collection so huge that he would never have time to listen to it all.

Eager to drum up buyers for their June 5 sale in London, the auctioneers breathlessly listed the celebrities who had actually sat in the cars alongside Elton—Hugh Grant, David Beckham, Sting, Gianni Versace and George Michael.

Fiercely proud of the collection he has amasses over 30 years, the singer said, "Once you have driven a great car, you never want to go back."

Workmanship

All, apart from three Ferraris, are British-made and the singer said in a statement that he admired "the beauty and workmanship of them . . Jaguar, Rolls-Royce, Aston Martin, you can't beat them. They're just brilliant."

John, who once boasted he could find a shop in the Sahara desert, has four luxury homes and an overflowing wardrobe of outrageous costumes that he periodically clears out to raise thousands of pounds for charity.

Reuters

Ang Lee receives $30,300 from government

TAIPEI, Taiwan—Taiwanese director Ang Lee has won just about every major award for his film "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon." But he said the government prize he received Thursday last week was for him "the most real."

"This prize makes me feel as if I've got my two feet on the ground," the 47-year-old director said as he received the $30,300 award.

LEE. First Taiwanese to win an Oscar.

Donation

Lee, the first Taiwanese ever to win an Academy Award, said he would donate the cash prize to his high school in the southern city of Tainan. While at the school, Lee was two years behind another Tainan local, President Chen Shui-bian.

At the tail end of his five-day homecoming, Lee spent part of the day reminiscing with other famous alumni of his high school, including Lin Hsin-yi, minister of economics, and Chen Shih-meng, deputy governor of the Taiwan's Central Bank.

Lee flew in from New York on Sunday last week with his Oscar award stuffed in his backpack. On Friday, Lee flies to Hong Kong to attend another awards ceremony, and then to Beijing, where much of his martial arts epic was filmed.

Enormous pride

The director is a source of enormous pride for many Taiwanese.

"Crouching Tiger," his first in the martial arts genre, won four Oscars at the recent Academy Awards for foreign film, art direction, cinematography and original score.

The Mandarin-language historical romance is about a legendary sword that leads two kung-fu masters to do battle with a dangerous assassin and her young protegee. The heroes also confront their long-hidden passion for each other.

Lee, who has a master's degree in fine arts from New York University, received his first Academy Award and Golden Globe nomination in 1993 with "A Wedding Banquet," a bittersweet comedy about traditional Taiwanese parents dealing with their son's homosexuality.

Lee scored his second Oscar nomination for his gastronomic romantic-comedy "Eat Drink Man Woman" in 1994.

AP

How to mend a broken heart

THE ROMANTIC comedy "Someone Like You" is the story of one young woman's efforts to mend her broken heart. Based on the novel "Animal Husbandry" by Laura Zigman, the Fox 2000 Pictures production stars Ashley Judd, Greg Kinnear and Hugh Jackman and is directed by Tony Goldwyn.

Talent booker

Judd, the popular and talented star of the blockbusters "Kiss the Girls" and "Double Jeopardy" plays Jane Goodale, a career girl living in New York who is determined to succeed both professionally as a talent booker for a popular talk show as well as romantically.

When the show's dashing new executive producer Ray Brown, played by Oscar Best Supporting Actor nominee Kinnear, begins to woo Jane, she is on top of the world. Soon Ray is uttering those three little words and the besotted couple finds a cozy love nest to share. But when Ray inexplicably cools their sizzling hot romance, Jane is absolutely floored and unmoored.

Explanation

In order to survive the breakup, Jane searches fervently for an explanation of Ray's behavior and thinks she has found it, in of all places, the animal world. Discovering an eerie correlation between men and their bestial brethren, she researches the mating habits of animals.

Because Jane gave up her apartment when she was about to move in with Ray, she must frantically search for a new place.

ASHLEY Judd and Hugh Jackman in "Someone Like You."

She finds a home of sorts, plus some inspiration, in the most unexpected of places.

Her womanizing co-worker Eddie Alden, played by Hugh Jackman of "X-Men" not only provides her with a spare bedroom but also with a prototypical example of the male animal to study.

Newfound knowledge

Jane shares this newfound knowledge with her equally single friend Liz, played by Academy Award winning-actress Marisa Tomei, who is an editor at a men's magazine. Liz convinces Jane to write a pseudonymous sex column and this quickly becomes a sensation that makes her the most talked about woman in the nation.

Despite her efforts to demystify romance though, she soon finds that the human heart, even a man's, is more complicated than mere instinct.

"Someone Like You" also stars Ellen Barkin, as talk show host Diane Roberts. The movie is directed by acclaimed actor Tony Goldwyn who made his debut last year with "A Walk on the Moon."

He co-starred with Arnold Schwarzenegger in "The Sixth Day" and with Gwyneth Paltrow in "Bounce." He provided the voice of the lead character in the animated feature film "Tarzan."

True goal of human life

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia

A FRIEND of mine recently commented, "My mother is still hoping after all these years that I will get rich. All my brothers and sisters have their own houses and cars while my husband and I don't have such amenities. She says that I am the only one left who is poor."

Wonderful husband

My friend has three children and a wonderful husband who is spiritually inclined. I told her, "Tell your mother that you are actually very rich. You live in a small house where you worship the Lord daily, your husband is serving the Lord with his skills, and your children all sing and chant the Names of God. You live a peaceful life that is centered around God, so you are most fortunate and blessed!"

In this world, many people still cling to the belief that material success is the goal of life and that getting your children married off to a wealthy person is the peak of achievement.

The list of desired qualities includes a stable job with a very promising future, a prominent background with good connections, immigration potentials (such as having a green card or relatives who can petition the couple).

Jobless

If you are a school dropout, jobless, and materially impoverished, then your chances of winning approval is slim.

But the most desired qualities of a human being should be those that make him pleasing to God, rather than pleasing to the powers of this world. A person should be judged by what he is spiritually, not what he has materially.

Let me cite a story contained in the Vedic literatures. There was once a great emperor by the name of Svayambhuva Manu who had a beautiful daughter named Devahuti. One day, he went to the forest with his wife and daughter to seek out the great sage Kardama Muni.

Although a great ruler and king, Svayambhuva Manu said, "O great sage, listen to the prayer of my humble self, for my mind is troubled by affection for my daughter. She is seeking a suitable husband in terms of age, character and good qualities. The moment she heard of your noble character, learning and other virtues, she fixed her mind upon you. Therefore, please accept her."

Austerities

The saintly Kardama Muni accepted Devahuti as his wife and they both lived in that forest. Although Devahuti was brought up as a princess, she accepted the austerities of serving her saintly husband. Due to her sincerity and devotion, she also attained spiirtual advancement. Her body became thin and her appearance changed due to hard work.

But her spiritual life blossomed. In the end, both husband and wife attained spiritual perfection by pleasing the Lord with their devotional service. In this way, they both achieved the highest goal of human life—love for the Supreme Lord.

There is no higher bliss than love for the Lord. Parents and children must realize that marriage must help us come to achieve the *real* goal of human life!

'Live Show' fails to live up to its potential

By Ametta Suarez Taguchi

"LIVE Show" is now available on videotape all over the country. Is it pornographic? This question was asked recently by a group of curious friends who viewed the movie in Cagayan de Oro City.

In interviews, the makers of "Live Show" claimed that it is a work of art. Studied along the criteria of what makes a cinematic piece a work of art, however, it is of a lesser rank.

Talent

Though the cinematography is good and the actors evince some talent, the other elements of film are not sufficiently utilized.

The script fails to develop the central conflict which is supposed to be built on the current issues of poverty, moral decadence and the indifference of society, versus the characters' motives of filling the needs of survival and defining their purpose in life.

We learn of this pivotal conflict from talk show interviews. Onscreen, it is unclear. In work-of-art movies like "Tanging Yaman," the conflict gets complicated by the inner demons of each character in the cast. It ends with a statement that ties up the artistic and thematic intention of the work.

In "Live Show," on the other hand, the conflict stays flat on the plot line from beginning to end. As for the concluding statement, around the middle of the film, it is a foregone conclusion that the makers of "Live Show" are not sure of what they really want to achieve in this work.

Problems

Implied are very real problems full of potential for cinematic mining. Sad to say, they remain unearthed. For example, one of the female characters screams that she does not care that her mother is dying of cancer. She is bitter because as a child she was sold into prostitution by her mother. One anticipates an avenue opening to the heart of the plot but deep-seated hurt is not explored, turning into one of many dead-ends. Here are others:

The characters are supposed to be trapped in a societal hole, according to the narrator. However, unlike the protagonist in "Kapit sa Patalim" who embraces a life of crime after struggling to be a good man, there is no one in "Live Show" the viewer can see being unfairly weighed down by the forces of an uncaring community.

"LIVE SHOW." The conflict stays flat on the plotline from beginning to end.

This is not surprising. In the first place, no one even attempts to be a good person. Well, there *are* a few vague and puny efforts, such as the scene where one of the male characters tries to borrow money in an emergency but is turned down, and another scene where he verbalizes the difficulty of finding employment.

In a medium that is visual, we don't witness him suffering from the blows of joblessness and fighting hard to find employment and affirmation from society. Neither do we see him heroically trying to earn a decent living in a resourceful way for which the nobler among us Filipinos are famous.

Instead, to solve his economic problem, we see him take the course of least resistance by hiring himself out as a live sex show performer. His choice is the choice of all the other prostitutes in the film.

Vision

While it is the right of the artist to express whatever vision he may have in mind, his craft requires him to be able to convince us that his vision is real if he can't make us believe that it is right. The makers of "Live Show" fail to convince the viewer that the choice of the characters to be prostitutes is inevitable, there being absolutely no other choice, given the circumstances of their situations.

Had they succeeded in making us suspend our disbelief, we would be sympathetic. Had they created strong characters to match an equally strong enemy, we would root for them in spite of their succumbing to being bad.

Instead, we are served a bunch of lazy young people who want a quick fix to their problems by allowing their bodies to be used for easy money. They gripe, they curse, they cry, they bark at the indignity. Our reaction: *miaw!*

Or as Tatit del Rosario, one of the film viewers put it, "Their pain is self-inflicted. You feel like saying, 'You deserve it, guys. Don't blame us, please!'"

Enrico Lluch, on the other hand, lamented the rehash of standard stereotypes such as the notion that sex workers bark in nothing but gutter language from sun-up to sundown. The language and the characters are so uniform and one-dimensional, it's hard to make individual descriptions of the cast members.

Consensus

As for the sex scenes, it was the consensus of the group that there are better-crafted ones available in videotape rental outlets. Enrico added that the sex scenes in "Live Show" are like instructional how-to's for beginners: not hardcore porn which may shock the uninitiated—*and* incite the entire country to unanimously throw the movie out of public theaters without debate—but a little hotter than soft porn.

"Live Show" is adroitly placed on a borderline where the different sectors of Philippine society will forever split hairs on the question of what is pornographic and what is not.

Its cleverly-manipulated location stirred up controversy and publicity, so that when the work got axed, deemed unfit for public viewing, it ushered the curious into videotape rental outlets. Had it passed the scrutiny of the MTRCB, good! Both ways, the financial backers of the movie make a profit. *(To be concluded)*

Summer 'toons mix fresh plots with lively animation

By David Germain

LOS ANGELES—This summer's cartoon fare offers a nice mix of original story lines and a cutting-edge blend of live-action with computer-generated images and traditional pen-and-ink animation.

Credits

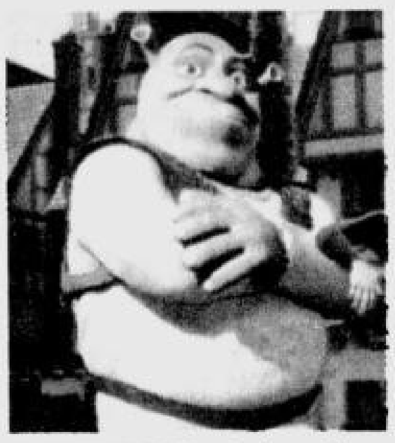
"In the way Scorsese and Spielberg and Lucas sort of reinvented live action movies in the '70s, I think now we're seeing a whole new group of guys and girls reinventing animation and the way we use it to tell stories," said producer Don Hahn, whose credits include "The Lion King" and "Beauty and the Beast."

Hahn's latest, Disney's "Atlantis: The Lost Empire," features the voices of Michael J. Fox, James Garner and John Mahoney in a pen-and-ink animated epic about explorers burrowing deep underground in a search for the mythical city.

Other animated flicks this summer: "Shrek," the second computer-animated comedy from DreamWorks, which released "Antz." Mike Myers provides the Scottish brogue of the title character, a misanthropic ogre forced on a journey with a talking donkey (Eddie Murphy) to rescue a princess (Cameron Diaz) so he can rid his swampy sanctuary of unwelcome fairy tale creatures.

"Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within," featuring semi-realistic human figures created by computer animation. Based on the video game, the movie tells the story of humans battling ghostly alien invaders. Voices include Peri Gilpin, Steve Buscemi and Ving Rhames.

Fight


"SHREK." Whimsical world.

"Osmosis Jones," blending pen-and-ink animation and live action for a comedy about a man (Bill Murray) whose body is host for a fight between a white blood cell (the voice of Chris Rock) and a deadly virus (Laurence Fishburne's voice).

"The Trumpet of the Swan," E.B. White's children's novel about the adventures of a speechless swan, brought to life through pen-and-ink animation. Featuring the voices of Jason Alexander, Mary Steenburgen and Reese Witherspoon, the movie is getting a limited theater run before its home-video debut.

"Cats & Dogs," which combines live action, animatronic puppets and computer-animated canines and felines. Unbeknownst to humans, a rogue cat named Mr. Tinkles carries on a high-tech feline war against dogs of the world. The movie features Jeff Goldblum and Elizabeth Perkins and the voices of Alec Baldwin, Jon Lovitz and Susan Sarandon.

"I just thought it was a hysterically funny concept that should have done before but nobody thought of doing," said "Cats & Dogs" director Larry Guterman. "The idea that we've always suspected something was up with our cats and dogs, and the idea it was going on right under our noses."

Boundaries

The movie promises big advances over such previous films as "Babe" in depicting human expressions on the faces of talking animals. Likewise, with "Shrek" and "Final Fantasy," animators continue to push the boundaries for creating entire worlds on computer.

The "Final Fantasy" characters are not photo-realistic people, but they're as close as current technology allows, said Chris Lee, a producer on the film.

"We've all seen dinosaurs and toys come to life, or characters like Stuart Little and Jar Jar Binks," Lee said. "But the difficulty level is so much higher to create something everyone has a relationship to. To try to create believable people in the computer has been the holy grail for the artist."

The makers of "Shrek," based on William Steig's children's book, waxed whimsical with their world, creating wild stunts, goofy creatures and a mismatched romantic pair with Myers' hulking green ogre and Diaz's beautiful princess.

The possibilities of computer animation have "just opened up everyone's imagination," said Vicky Jenson, co-director of "Shrek." "But at the same time you have those breakthroughs, you can only capitalize on it with good stories. People don't become enamored of the medium for its own sake. Regardless of the medium, people aren't going to want to see it if you don't tell a good story." *AP*

SWITCHING CHANNELS

Vic Del Rosario, boxing promoter

By Edmund L. Sicam

VIC del Rosario, whose Viva Group of Companies is involved in movies, television, video, recording and live concerts, has one more title to add to his long list of appellations: boxing promoter.

Saying that it has always been his dream to get involved in boxing events, Vic is teaming up with the Araneta Coliseum to stage "Winning Time—Lakas ng Pinoy," today's championship match between WBC International super flyweight champion Gerry Peñalosa and the challenger from Japan, Keiji Yamaguchi, former world junior light flyweight champion.

The preliminary matches start at 5 p.m. while the delayed telecast of the important fights will start at 9 p.m. on Vintage TV 13. Viva, of course, is part of Vintage Television, which has been airing different sports competitions, aside from its main attraction, the PBA Games. Previously, Vintage has aired boxing events but this is the first time that Vic is actually promoting a boxing match.

To liven things up, Vic is inviting movie and TV stars to grace the event. Already, the following stars have confirmed their attendance at the Big Dome: Robin Padilla, Phillip Salvador, Rica Peralejo, Edu Manzano and Mylene Dizon. More are expected to add glitter to the occasion.

Vic's new venture is one more indication that the movie industry is truly in the doldrums. Vic's strategy seems to be to diversify into other forms of entertainment and not rely mainly on movies for revenues. Boxing may be a bit outside entertainment but there is a thin line separating sports and entertainment. In fact, many athletes have crossed over to the show biz world.

If this event is a success, Vic has a good chance of staging the next fight of Peñalosa, which will be against the winner of the title fight between Masamori Tokuyama and In Joo Cho on May 20. Cho defeated Peñalosa in 1998 and the Pinoy fighter is eager for a rematch.

'Dune' on Cinemax May 11

John Harrision, writer-director of Frank Herbert's "Dune," prefers to call his work an adventure novel. "It is called sci-fi but I would rather think of it as speculative fiction. An adventure epic."

"Dune" will air as a three-part, six-hour miniseries on Cinemax starting on May 11. Part 2 airs on May 12 while the concluding episode will be shown on May 13. All installments air at 9 p.m.

Described as "an epic messianic saga of fate, witchcraft, romance and political intrigue," "Dune" follows the young Paul Muadidib (Alec Newman), who accompanies his father Duke Leto Atreides (William Hurt) to Dune, the desert planet. The emperor has asked the Duke to oversee the production of the Spice, which is a life-sustaining substance. Many believe that whoever controls this substance will rule the Empire.

Leto is assassinated and Paul and his mother, a witch with mystical powers, must survive the rigors of the desert.

HBO arranged for Crispina Belen and me to speak to Harrison by telephone to learn more about the creative process involved in the production of "Dune." Harrison told us that a six-part miniseries was the only way he could have brought Herbert's classic to the screen because the book is full of details that would not fit in a regular feature film.

It also helped that he had access to the latest special effects that added a lot of texture to the miniseries. Even with the six-hour running time, he had to remove many of the events described in the book. However, he believes that the TV special is faithful to Herbert's work.

He finds it an advantage that he is both writer and director of the miniseries, since he has strict control over the creative vision. However, there are times when he, as a director, looked at the script he had written, and had to modify some aspects of his screenplay to conform with the realities of shooting a scene.

Harrision started out as an assistant of horror director George Romero and went on to write some episodes for the director's "Tales from the Darkside" for TV. Later, Harrison directed the movie version of the TV series. He is also the scriptwriter of the Walt Disney animated movie, "Dinosaur."

Most of his works deal with horror but he doesn't consider himself a horror director. He is, first and foremost, a storyteller and plans to do other genres if given the chance. In fact, he would like to do a musical but he admits that studios are not too hot about producing musicals these days.

Bong returning to sitcom after elections

Cavite reelectionist governor Bong Revilla plans to go back to his GMA sitcom, "Idol Ko So Kap" once the elections are over. Right now, GMA has been guesting various stars while Bong is on the campaign trail. The sitcom must have caught on because one barangay captain in Mandaluyong, who is running for councilor, is using "Idol Ko Si Kap" as his political slogan for his campaign.

Bong is widely believed to be leading in his province but he is worried that some of his provincemates may look unkindly on his turning his back on former president Joseph Estrada. Bong, as everybody knows, showed up at the Edsa Shrine in the heat of the anti-Erap protests to ask the former president to resign.

Since then, he and Jinggoy have reportedly not been on speaking terms. Bong feels, however, that he had to do what he did out of his personal convictions. In terms of accomplishments, Bong feels he has done a lot for his province. His political enemies are, of course, downplaying his achievements as well as the candidacy of his wife, Lani Mercado, who is running for mayor in Bacoor, Cavite.

This is all par for the course, says Bong. He feels that Caviteños are smart and will not believe the lies being peddled about him and his wife.

"DUNE." Speculative fiction.

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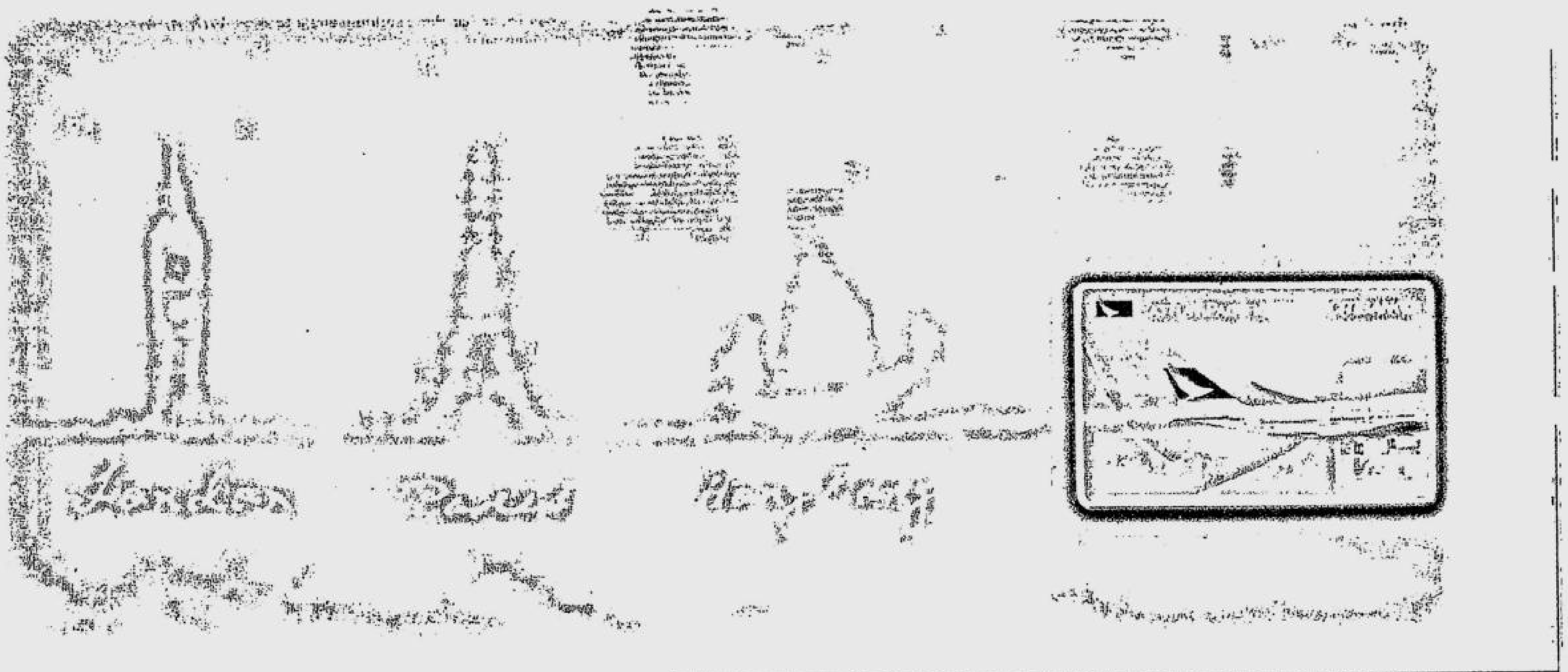

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CITIBANK

'Town & Country' is a dud but not a debacle

By David Germain

LOS ANGELES—Ignore all the doomsaying about "Town & Country," the long-delayed romantic comedy starring Warren Beatty, Diane Keaton, Goldie Hawn and Garry Shandling.

Rumors

Disregard the rumors about strife on the set, aimless script rewrites, backbiting over who was to blame.

Here's the real skinny on "Town & Country." It's still a dud, but at least it's not a debacle.

The movie is simply top-heavy on talent and feather-light on story. Other than the basic premise of two old married couples falling apart because of the men's philandering, the film doesn't offer much for the star-studded cast to do.

It's short on wit, short on jokes, short on sight gags. Pretty much anything needed to make you laugh, this film is short on.

What you get is a shell of a movie that had everything else going for it: nice sets, a colorful range of locations, a good director in Peter Chelsom, supremely talented actors who comport themselves very well given the weak material.

Other projects

The problems go right back to the beginning, when New Line gave the go-ahead to start filming nearly three years ago. There wasn't a finished script, but everyone counted on smoothing the story out and wrapping it by April 1999, when some cast members were committed to other projects.

That didn't happen, and New Line had a long wait to get the cast back to shoot newly written scenes.

Meantime, speculation about the problems mounted in the Hollywood trade papers ás the movie's initial release date was pushed back a dozen times.

Even if the changes made it a better, funnier movie, "Town & Country" still mostly lumbers along, with pasty lead characters for whom it's hard to give a hoot.

Beatty and Keaton play Porter and Ellie Stoddard, a wealthy Manhattan couple celebrating their 25th anniversary with their best friends, fellow happily marrieds Mona and Griffin (Hawn and Shandling).

Dalliances

But Mona soon learns Griffin's getting some on the side, busting up their marriage. And Porter's own happy home gradually crashes and burns because of his dalliances.

The movie's opening actually is promising, with co-star Nastassja Kinski sitting naked, back to the camera, sawing away at a cello while Beatty watches from a rumpled bed. In voice-over, Porter ruminates on his infidelity and vows "it will never happen again."

The moment is sexy, brooding and sly, raising hopes for an intelligent adult comedy.

But it's over quickly, and "Town & Country" settles into a tedious and unfunny set-up, with the first half of the movie spent dividing Porter and Ellie so hubby can go off on some romantic misadventures.

The only genuine laughs come in the center portion, courtesy of some uncharacteristically snappy dialogue and nice supporting turns by Andie MacDowell, Jenna Elfman and Charlton Heston.

Crazed look

If for no other reason, "Town & Country" earns points for turning NRA leader Heston loose with a shotgun and a crazed look in his eye; it's good propaganda for the loyal opposition on the gun-control side.

After its semi-madcap middle section, "Town & Country" reverts to its previous drowsiness as the characters somnambulate toward the finish line.

Getting off to such a bad start, the film may have been impossible to salvage, short of scrapping the footage and beginning again with a decent script. But with the film's budget climbing by a third to $80 million, all New Line could do was cut its losses.

Anyway, "Town & Country's" troubles are over and forgotten, and the movie soon will be, too.

"Town & Country" runs 104 minutes.

AP

THE FILM which stars Garry Shandling (left) and Warren Beatty is top heavy on talent and feather-light on story.

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Bedroom farces on TCM Turner Classic Movies

IT'S a fun filled evening of romantic comedies on TCM. Ava Gardner's best friend is also her substitute husband, William Powell's uninvited mother-in-law visits on his wedding anniversary. Jane Fonda's secret love interest is mistaken for her brother by her fiance and a city blackout causes chaos for Doris Day and her husband, all of this adds up to lots of laughs and mishaps. Don't miss the Bedroom Farces movie night on TCM in May!

Anything can happen

When the electricity goes out anything can happen and in "Where Were You When the Lights Went Out?" (1968) it does, with comical results.

A New York City blackout causes complications for stage actress Doris Day. She escapes to her Connecticut home and finds her husband with an attractive reporter in their New York City apartment.

But Day isn't alone for very long when a businessman, on the lam, stumbles on her home. Throw in a jealous husband, the police and a greedy agent and things start to heat up.

"Where Were You When the Lights Went Out?" (1968) features Robert Morse and Terry-Thomas, who turn in brilliant comic performances.

In "The Little Hut" (1957), Ava Gardner is married to David Niven. Niven however doesn't have time for his lovely wife, so his best friend Stewart Granger accompanies Gardner in his absence.

In an attempt to make Niven jealous, Gardner makes a home video with Granger as her part time husband, frolicking on the beach and playing in the garden. Unfortunately, it shocks everyone but Niven.

Comic consequences

The slapstick comedy "Love Crazy" (1941) is another sparkling pairing of William Powell and Myrna Loy. Misunderstandings and comic consequences abound when Loy's mother visits the happily married couple on their wedding anniversary. Don't miss Powell dressed in drag! The actors work deftly with a fast-pace and witty script.

Jane Fonda is superb in the well-scripted sex comedy "Sunday in New York" (1963). Having argued with her fiance, she seeks refuge with her brother in New York.

Here she meets Rod Taylor and after some hysterical escapades she falls in love with him. Hilarity occurs when the pair return to her brother's apartment to dry off from a rain storm and they encounter not only a confused brother but also her unexpected fiance.

Drawing from the greatest collection of films ever assembled, TCM Turner Classic Movies is the definitive classic movie channel, featuring movies from the 20's to the 80's representing the Golden Age of Hollywood.

The majority of these movies are considered by experts to be some of the greatest films ever made, with many of the MOM and pre-1948 Warner Bros. films not being seen anywhere in years and not yet available on home video.

FONDA stars in "Sunday in New York."

Wow!
Ang dami na!
GUYITO

Junior
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PLANETS
WOW!
HI

11 new planets spotted; one in 'life zone'

ASTRONOMERS have announced the discovery of 11 distant planets, raising the number of known planets outside the solar system to 63.

The latest finds include a planet that orbits twice as fast as a sibling planet; a planet with the most elongated orbit detected so far; and a planet around a sun-like star in an Earth-like orbit.

The last is located in a so-called "habitable zone," where terrestrial temperatures are possible. In such an orbit, the conditions would be ideal for the presence of liquid water, a necessary ingredient for known life.

But like all extra-solar planets that have been discovered, the specimen is a giant similar in size to Jupiter or even larger.

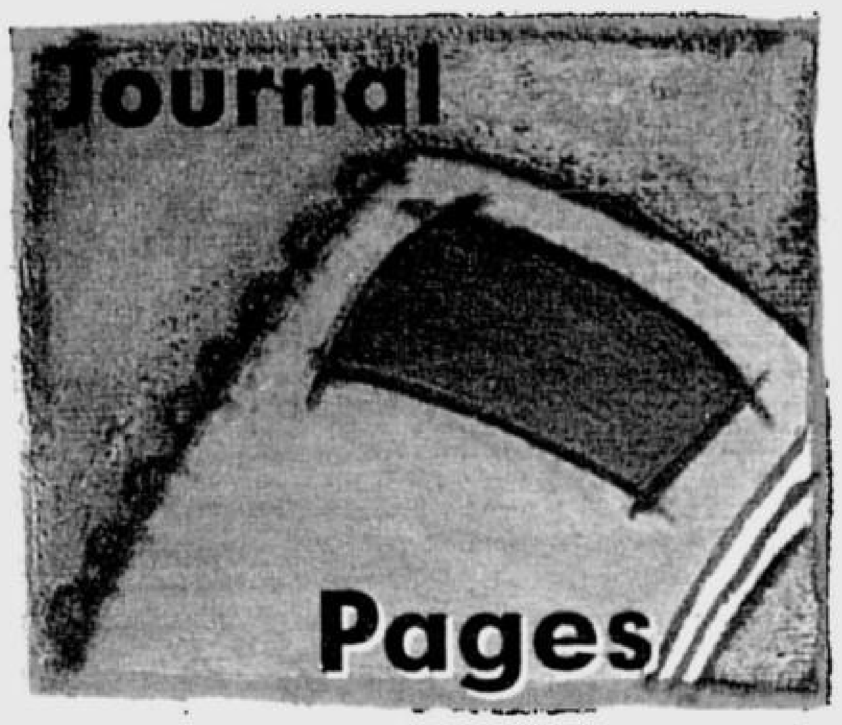
One of the new planets was the second detected in a system with three stars. Any observer standing on the planet would get plenty of light, at times seeing three suns in the sky, astronomers said.

Besides the ESO La Silla Observatory in Chile, the Haute-Provence Observatory in France and the Keck telescopes in Hawaii took part in the planetary hunt.

The first of the so-called "exoplanets" were observed only six years go, using around-based telescopes to measure the wobble such bodies produce as they orbit their host stars. None of the new planets has been observed directly.

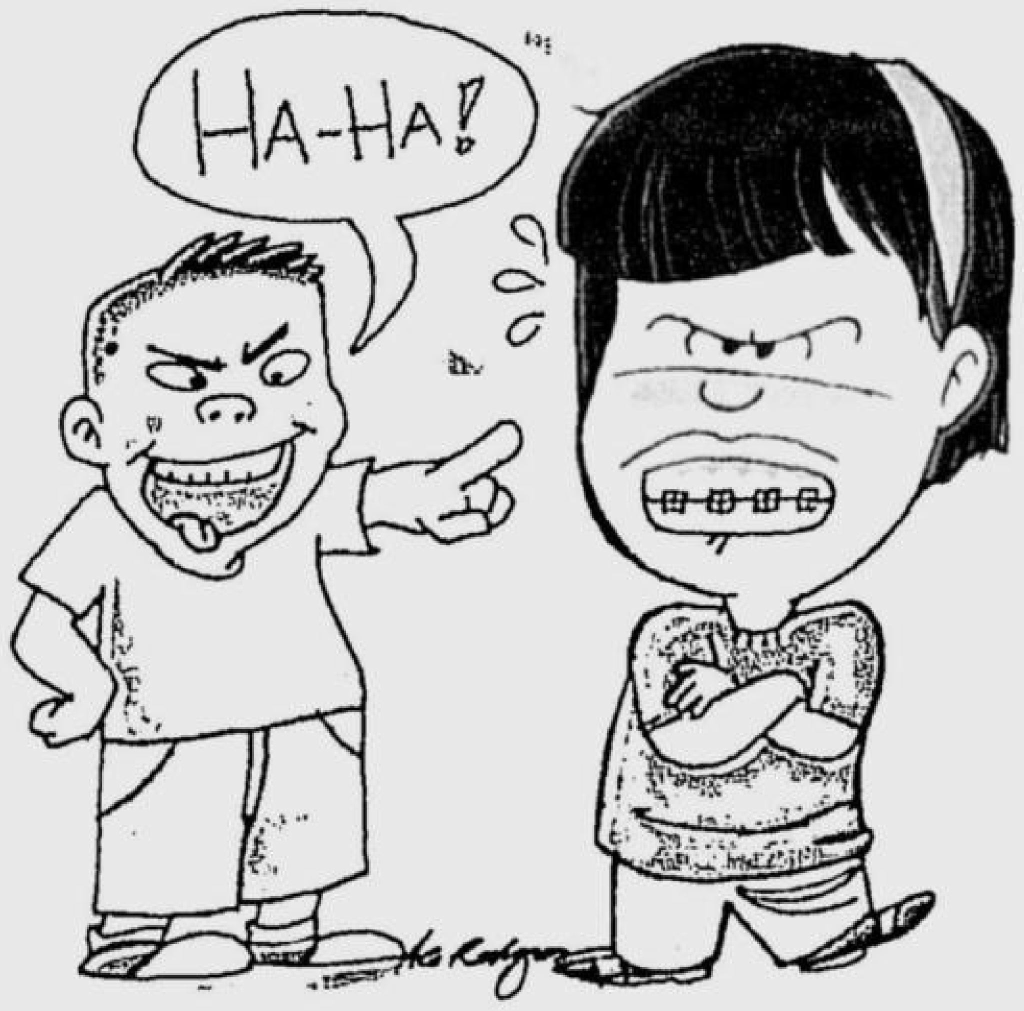
Astronomers are excited about discovering more much smaller planets, perhaps terrestrial-sized ones, when more powerful observatories and satellites expand the search within the decade.

Illustration by
STEPH BRAVO



Having Braces

BY DIANA CELERINA AVIADO
PWU-JASMS



HAVING braces is almost the worst thing that could happen to a kid. Not only do you have to suffer two hours of torturous pain in the dental clinic, but afterwards everybody makes fun of you. Then call you names like "nerd" and "metal-mouth."

I don't only speak for myself because I have braces. I also speak for the unfortunate kids who get teased because they wear glasses or are overweight (or underweight).

It's unfair for us. Surely all of us have shortcomings. But some people don't understand the suffering others go through.

I am not surprised that some "nerds" become even smarter despite the teasing. That's how they think they can be accepted.

I hope that readers who are guilty of calling other people names will hear me out. As for those who wear braces or have disabilities, there are people who care for you.

Sound Familiar?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

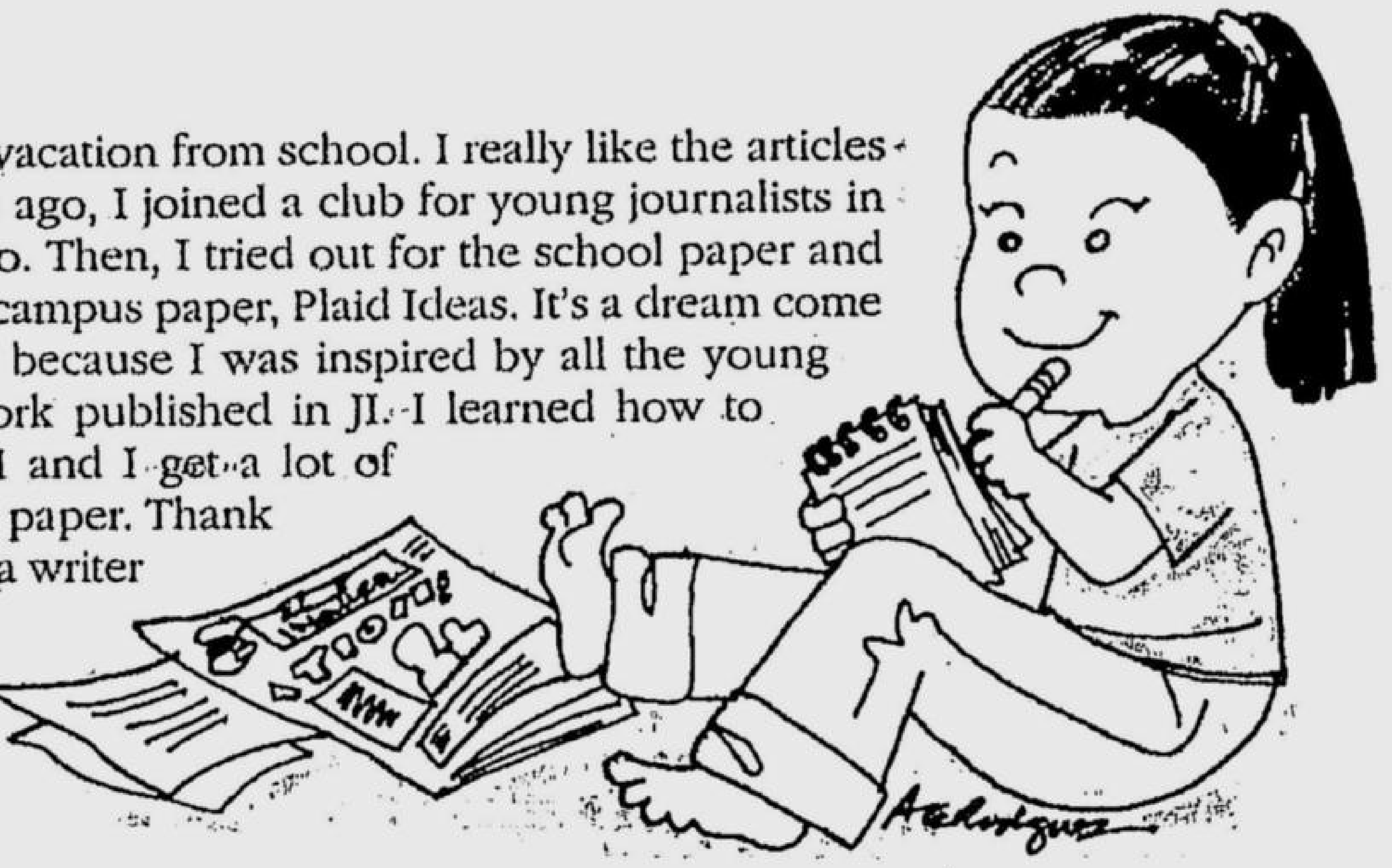
Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!

Inspired by JI

DEAR Editor,

I read JI a lot during my last vacation from school. I really like the articles that you publish. A few months ago, I joined a club for young journalists in my school Assumption, Antipolo. Then, I tried out for the school paper and I passed. Now I am a writer for campus paper, Plaid Ideas. It's a dream come true! I joined our school paper because I was inspired by all the young writers who have had their work published in JI. I learned how to write articles just by reading JI and I get a lot of ideas here for my articles in our paper. Thank you for inspiring me to become a writer in my school and someday, I hope to become a professional writer!—**DANIELLE FRANCESCA LEONARDO**, 12, Cainta, Rizal



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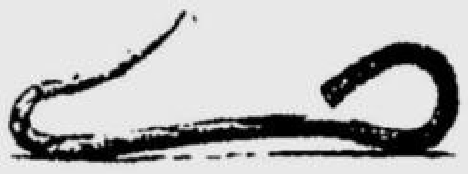
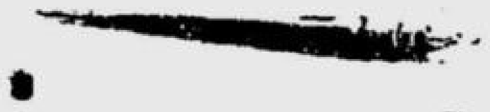
Dining Out • Weddings/Engagements • Family

This is used to kill



whale sharks.

This can be used
to save them.



WWF

The Inquirer joins the World Wildlife Fund in the fight to save rare animals. From now on you'll be reading more and learning more about the plight of endangered species. In our crusade to save the world, the only weapon we have is your support.

INQUIRER

ROBINSONS SUPERMARKET
CELEBRATES
HEALTH CONSCIOUSNESS MONTH WITH

FIT 4 FUN
APRIL 16-MAY 16

Start now by shopping healthy at Robinsons!
Simply shop for participating health and hygiene products worth at least
P300 within the promo period and join the
KIDDIE SPORTSFEST!
Just register at the store customer service counter.
***Plus!* Get the chance to win exciting prizes in the raffle!**

Participating Products: SEE POSTERS FOR DETAILS

MILO Chocolate Powder • Safeguard Soap • Lactum Milk Powder • BAND-AID Isopropyl Alcohol • Tender Care Baby Powder • Australian Dairy Milk • Vaseline Shampoo

Sportsfest Boosters: Purefoods • Mind 30 • Viva Mineral Water • Enervon-C

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1058 Series of 2001

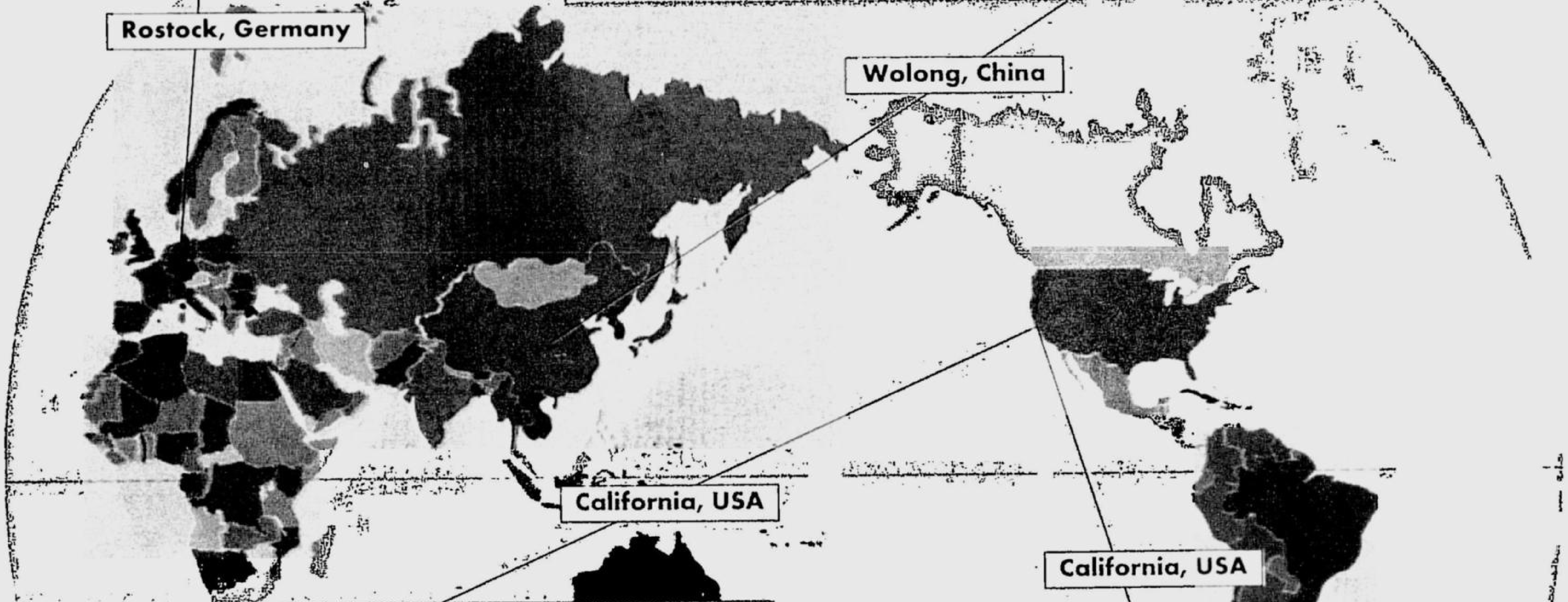
WORLD SCOPE

Vitus takes a look

A FOUR-MONTH-OLD polar bear cub named Vitus is followed by his mother Vienna as it takes a first look at their outdoor enclosure at the Rostock zoo. It was Vitus' first public appearance of the little polar bear. Vitus is Vienna's third offspring. ***AP***

Endangered habitat

A YOUNG panda born in captivity at the Wolong Breeding Center in China is shown in this undated handout photo. The dappled forests pandas who need to live and breed are being destroyed faster inside the preserve than before the park was created, according to a sobering study that shows the parkland isn't enough to protect endangered species. ***AP***

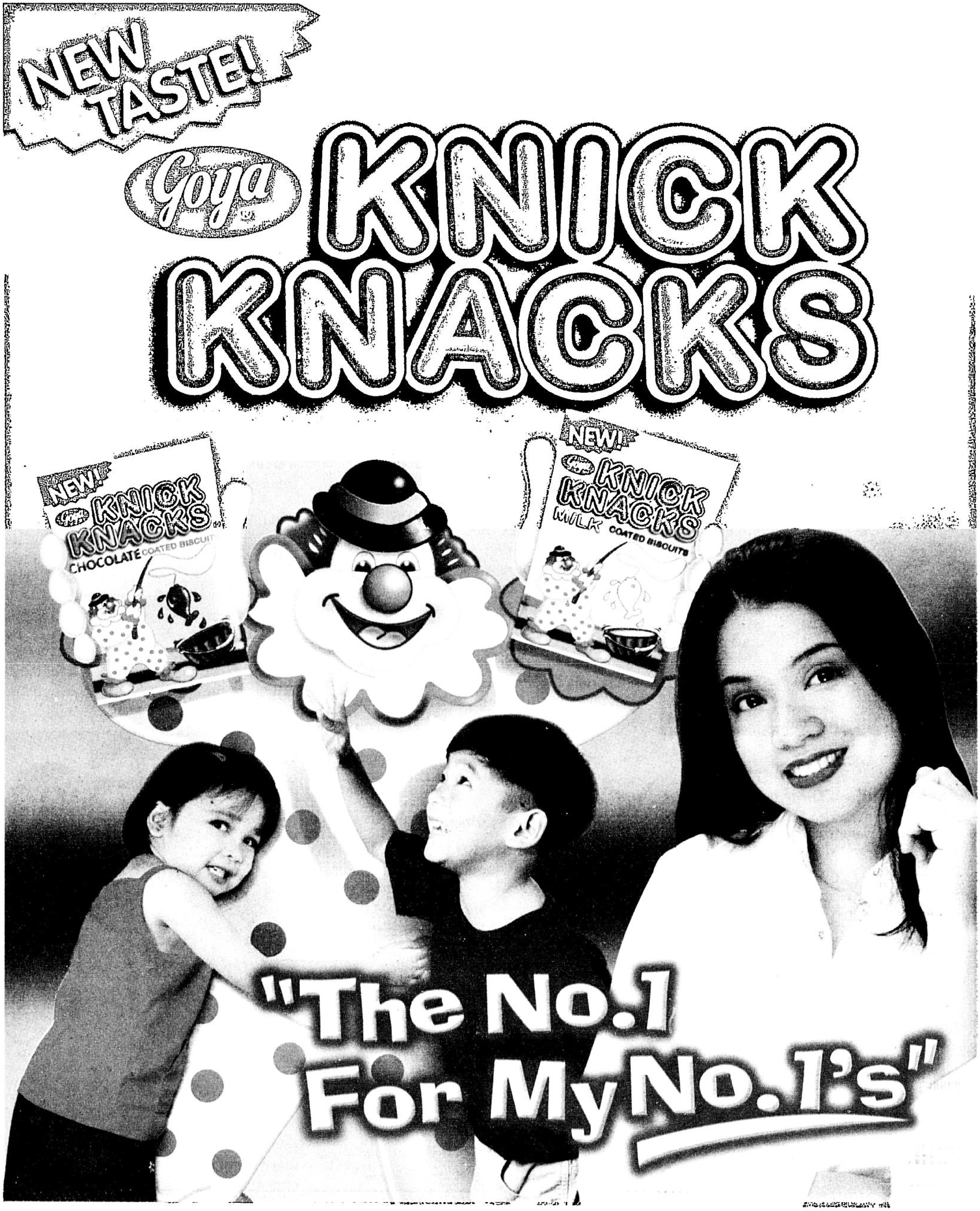


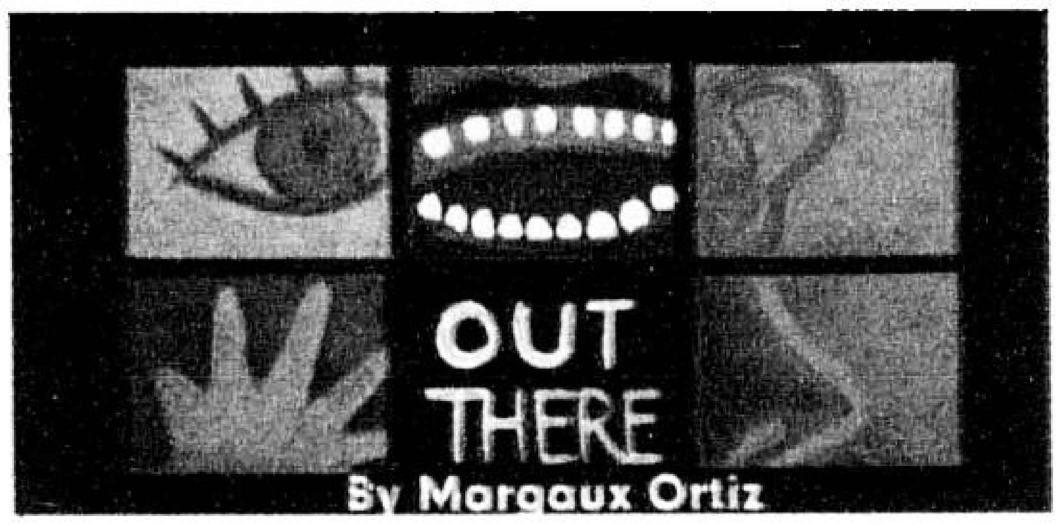
Whale watch

A KILLER whale makes its way along the Santa Barbara, California coastline while being photographed during a whale watching tour. Whale watching tours in the US help ordinary people understand the lives of these marine creatures. ***AP***

Flying lessons

A MENTOR California Condor takes flight as a chick watches, awaiting her turn to take her first free flight in the Ventana Wilderness Sanctuary. The elder condor, which has been trapped and re-released, is used as a mentor to educate the chicks in survival techniques in the wild. ***AP***

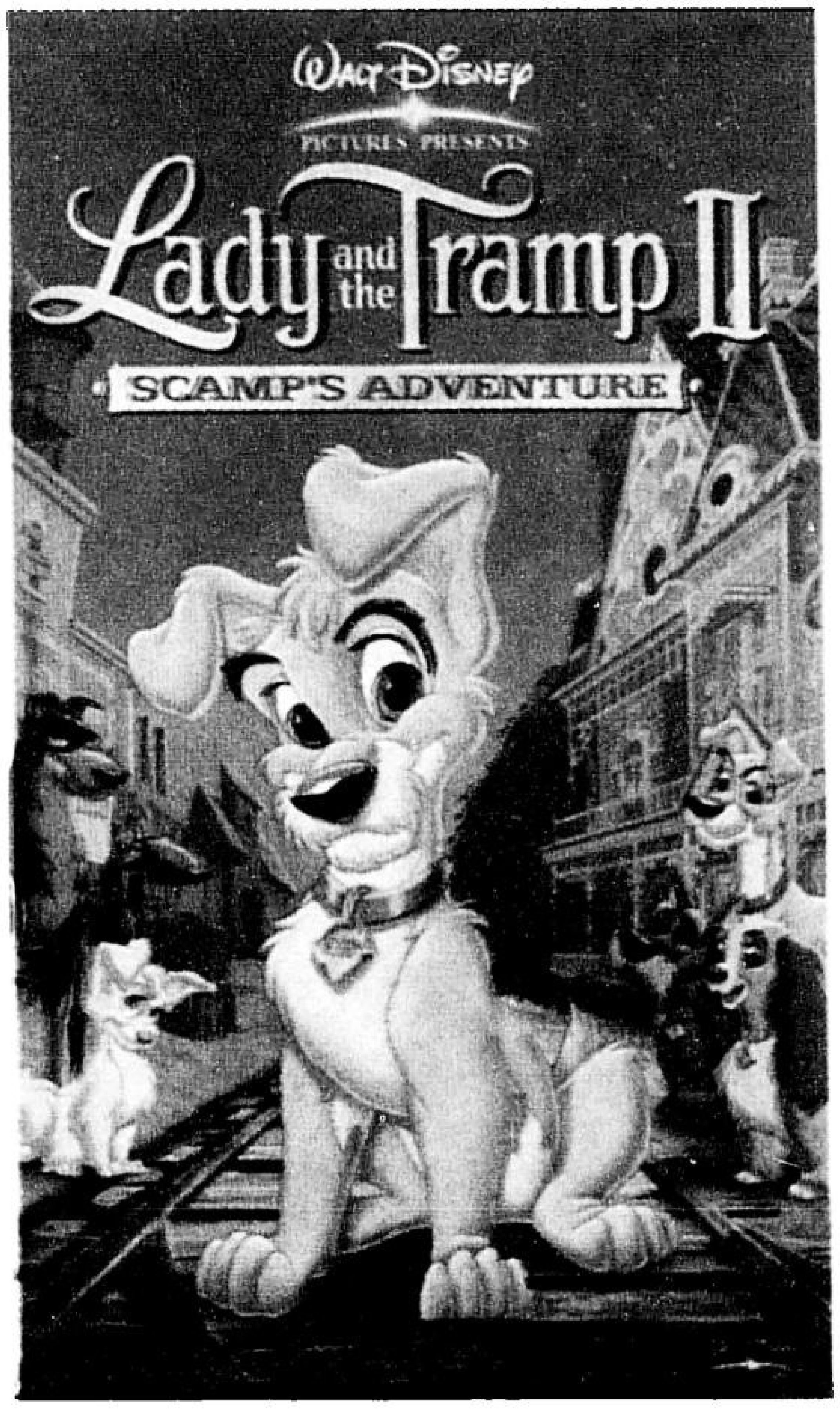

NEW TASTE!
Goya
KNICK KNACKS
NEW!
Goya KNICK KNACKS
CHOCOLATE COATED BISCUITS
NEW!
Goya KNICK KNACKS
MILK COATED BISCUITS
"The No.1 For My No. 1's"



Got something for Out There?
Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

On Video

SCAMP'S ADVENTURE. Join Lady and the Tramp, two of Disney's most well-loved characters, with the adorable new addition to their family—cute and cuddly Scamp! "Lady and Tramp 2 Scamp's Adventure" on original video is now available at all Video City, Astrovision, SM outlets and other leading video stores. Hurry, grab a copy now!



Workshops

ART WORKSHOP. Good news for all you art lovers out there! Faber Castell is sponsoring **free** art workshops for kids ages 7 to 11. These will be held on May 5, 2-5 p.m. at the Main Gallery of UST Museum; May 9 and 10, 2 to 5 p.m. at the Concert Hall of SM City Manila; May 11, 2 to 5 p.m. at the UP Vargas Museum; May 15 and 16, 2 to 5 p.m. at the Activity Area of SM Centerpoint; May 19, 2 to 5 p.m. at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila; May 25, 2 to 5 p.m. at the Museo Pambata; June 1, 2 to 5 p.m. at the Ayala Museum; and on June 2, 9 to 12 noon at the Filipinas Heritage Library. Register now at 361-7395 or 361-7397.

UNIQUE ART COURSES. Be part of unique and alternative art activities this summer for a change! Art Pack founder Bambi Cordero will conduct courses like Mirror Frost Spectrum on May 6; Porcelain Painting on May 13; Decoupage and Antiquing Technique on May 20 and 27; Clay Sculpting on June 3 and 10; and Copper Etching on June 17. All classes will be held at Café Hon in the 2nd Level of CRM3 Bldg., 106 Kamias Road corner Kasing-Kasing St., Quezon City, at 2 p.m. on Sundays. For details, call Ann at 932-4428 from 9 a.m. till 1 p.m. on Mondays through Fridays, text 0917-9400909 or e-mail clara@pinoymusika.com.

BE ON CENTERSTAGE! Dunkin Donuts and Trumpets are sponsoring the Playshop 2000, which offers courses in children's theater, children's musical theater, basic and advanced acting, street dancing, stage management, TV production and TV newscasting, voice and piano lessons, ballet, and even modeling. Workshop runs until June 3. Hurry join now!

FOR TODDLERS ONLY. Kids ages one year and eight months to 3 years old can now participate in activities like story-telling, finger painting and string art in a fun playground set-up. Ayala Museum's "Play Art for Toddlers" is currently ongoing and runs until May 17. To register, call Anthony Gonzalez, Christy Monastrial or Ethel Villafranca at 812-1191 to 97 local 130 or e-mail edvillafranca@ayalamuseum.com. Or you can visit the Ayala Museum at Makati Avenue, Makati from Tuesday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Activities

FUN AT ENCHANTED KINGDOM. There is an ongoing marathon anniversary celebration at everybody's favorite amusement park, the Enchanted Kingdom. The exciting line-up of activities will include magical shows, the Annual Fireworks Competition on May 6, celebrity story-telling sessions, and lots of other surprises everyone will surely enjoy.

Instead of the regular 7 p.m. closing time, EK is now open from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. (Wednesdays to Fridays) and 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Saturdays and Sundays). It is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. On special holidays like May 1 (Labor Day), May 14 (Election Day), and June 12 (Independence Day), the park will be open from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.

More good news! EK patrons can enjoy the following flexible admission rates all year-round: the ride-all-you-can at P400 (weekends/holidays) and P320 (weekdays); the Super Saver 10 at P250/P200, an ideal package for the family and the non-adventurous rider that includes unlimited access to 10 pre-selected rides; and the EK Special, which allows unending access to the Grand Carousel!

EK tickets can now be easily purchased at 14 Ticketworld outlets. These outlets offer a 4 plus 1 Special Family Bundle (one free ticket for every free tickets purchased).

For inquiries, call 843-6073 to78 (Sta. Rosa, Laguna) or 830-2111 to 17 (Makati Sales Office).

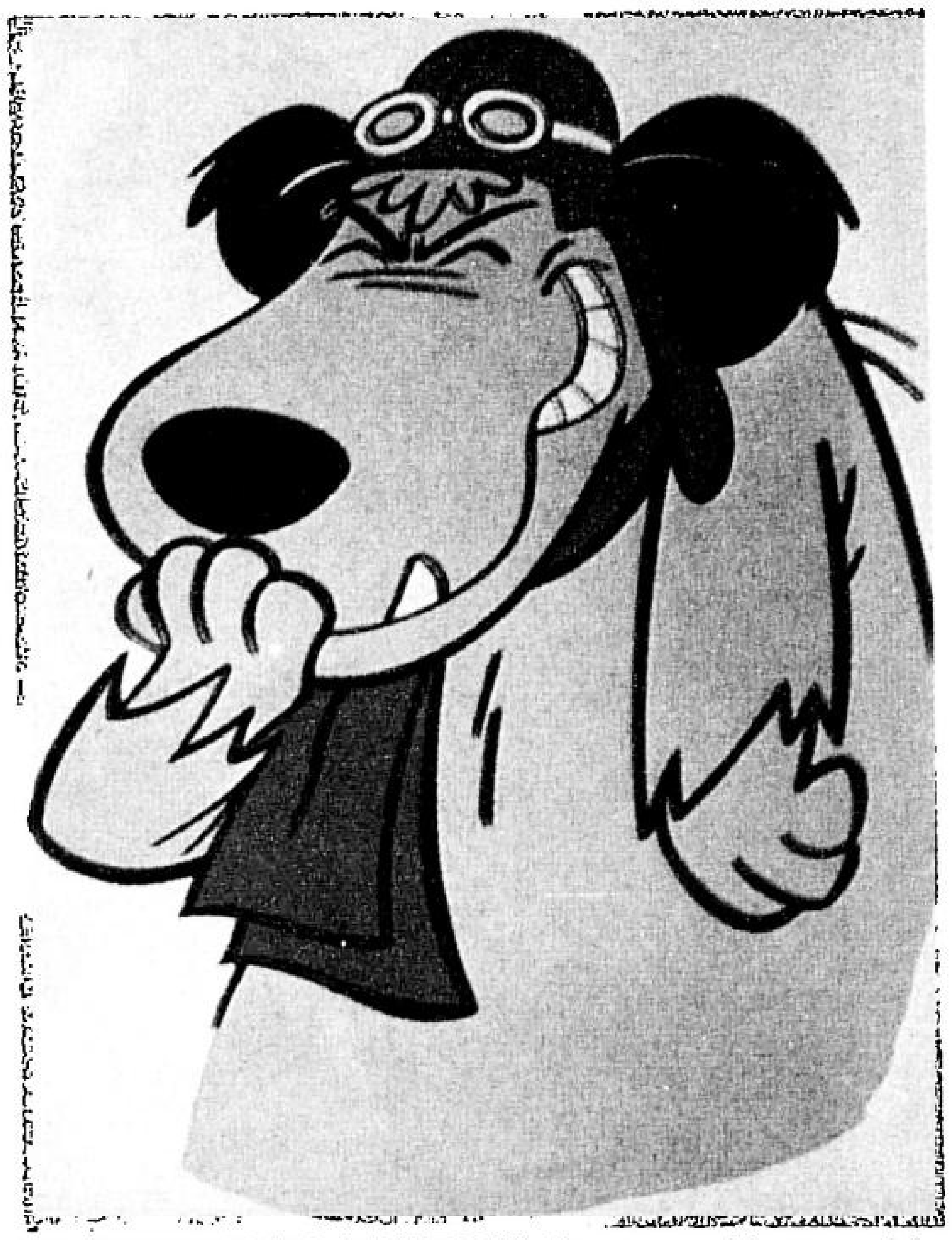
Cable Picks

MAY MADNESS AT NGC. Find out more about protecting rare birds of prey, being an eco-volunteer, installing solar planets, reducing nitrogen and sulfur emissions, and other ways to help heal our planet in the all-new National Geographic series "EarthPulse," which continues through May on Thursdays at 9 p.m.

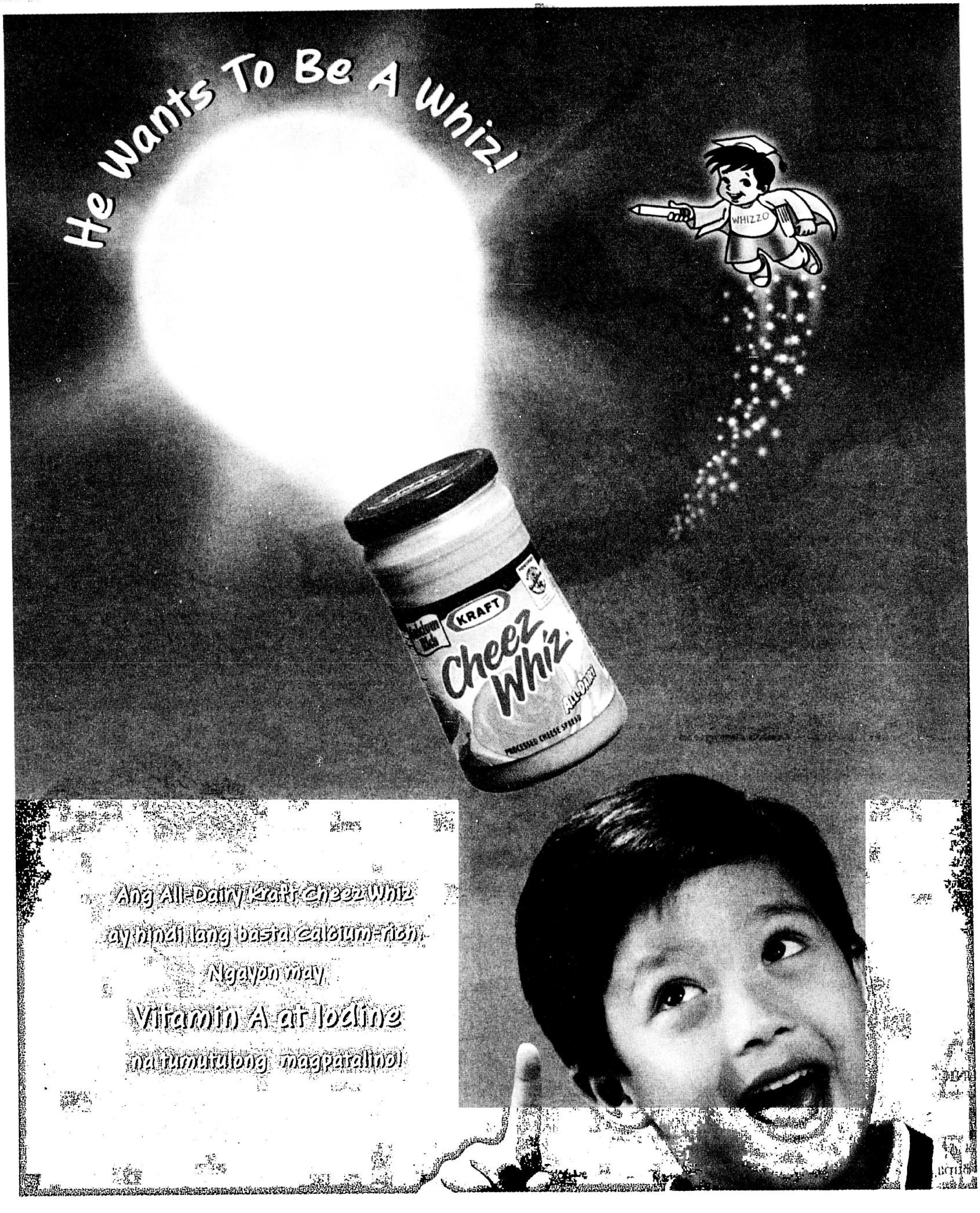
Learn more about dog-sledding and the special bond that exists between a sled driver and his lead dog in "Contenders, The Sled Dog Team" on the National Geographic Channel on Thursday, May 10 at 9:30 p.m.

Sunbathe in the first "Saturday Unlimited" on Saturday, May 5 at 7 p.m. Enjoy three hours of sun-related programming: meeting the Tajik people in "Descendants of the Sun," taking a closer look at "The Sun," and seeing the unimaginable violent side of this star in "Solar Blast."

CARTOON CARTOONS! Adorably mischievous but good-hearted Muttley will be Cartoon Network's Character of the Month for May! Join him in his funny misadventures every Sunday, starting May 6, 3 to 4 p.m.

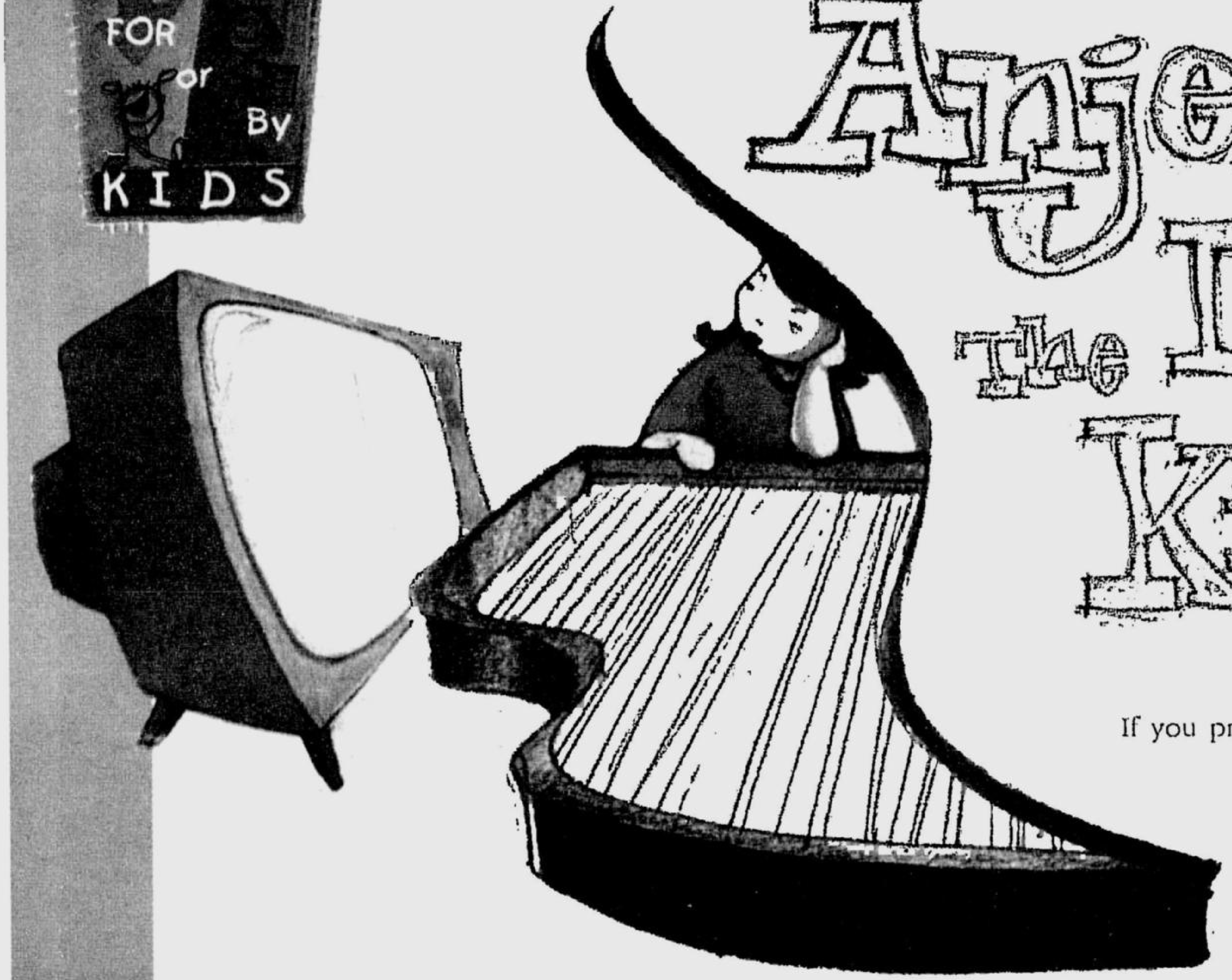


MISCHIEVOUS MUTTLEY. Cartoon Network's character of the month.


He Wants To Be A Whiz!
WHIZZO
KRAFT
Cheez Whiz
ALL-DAIRY
PROCESSED CHEESE SPREAD
Ang All-Dairy Kraft Cheez Whiz
ay hindi lang basta calcium-rich.
Ngayon may
Vitamin A at Iodine
na tumutulong magpatalino!

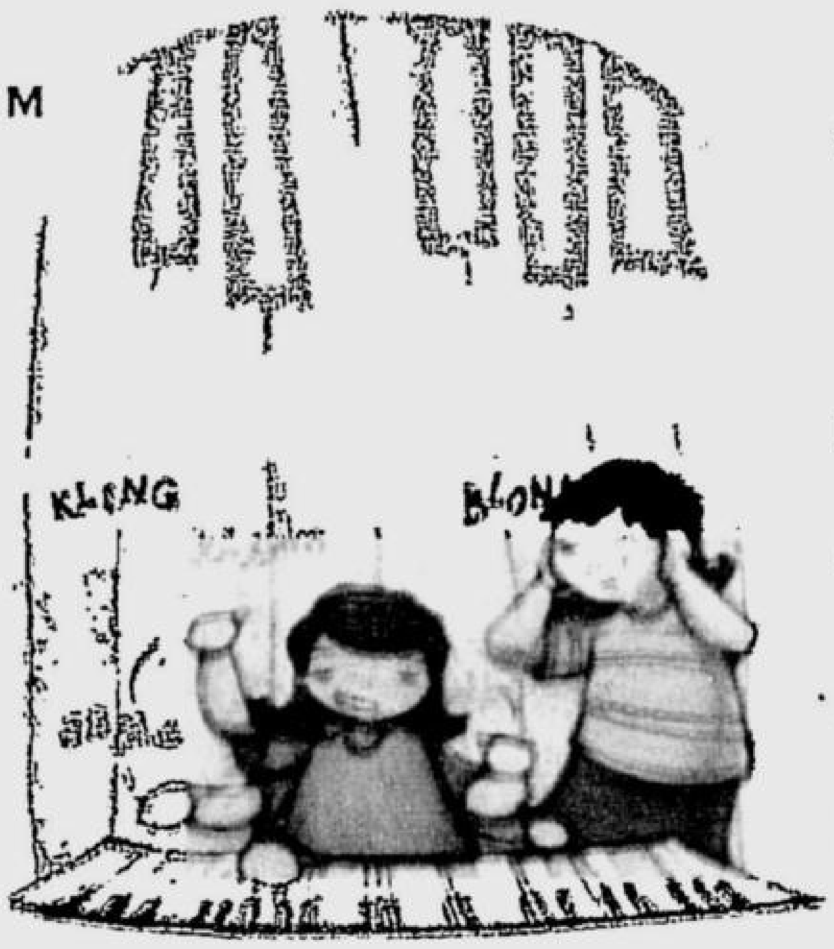
FOR or By KIDS

Anjelica, the Lazy KiD



STORY BY ANA S. ABUNDO
ILLUSTRATIONS BY PAOLO LIM

ANJELICA was a very lazy kid. She would never practice piano even if her mom begged her, she would just say "No."



One day her friend came over to play. Lorina is Anjelica's friend. Anjelica played the piano and it was horrible! Then she asked Lorina if she knew how to play the piano.

Lorina said, "Yes. Want me to play you a song?"

When she played the piano it was fantastic! Anjelica asked Lorina how come she can play the piano so well.

If you practice well, you'll play better," Lorina said.

"My teacher always gets mad at me," Anjelica said.

"But do you practice?" Lorina asked. Anjelica had to admit that she did not practice.

"Your teacher gets mad at you because she wants you to play well," Lorina said. " I know because my teacher got mad at me once. Then I realized it was because I did not practice as often as I should have. Now you know why you have to practice? "

After a few weeks Lorina visited Anjelica. By that time, Anjelica was fantastic at playing the piano.

The End

Ana *studies at the International School Manila.*

Paolo *is a member of Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan.*

The Three Little Pigs and the Alien

FOR or By KIDS

STORY BY KAREN JENNIFER GRANT
ILLUSTRATIONS BY MARCUS NADA

ONCE upon a time in space, there were three little pigs. They each wanted to build a spaceship.

The first pig made his spaceship out of glass. The second pig made his out of wood and the third pig made his out of metal.

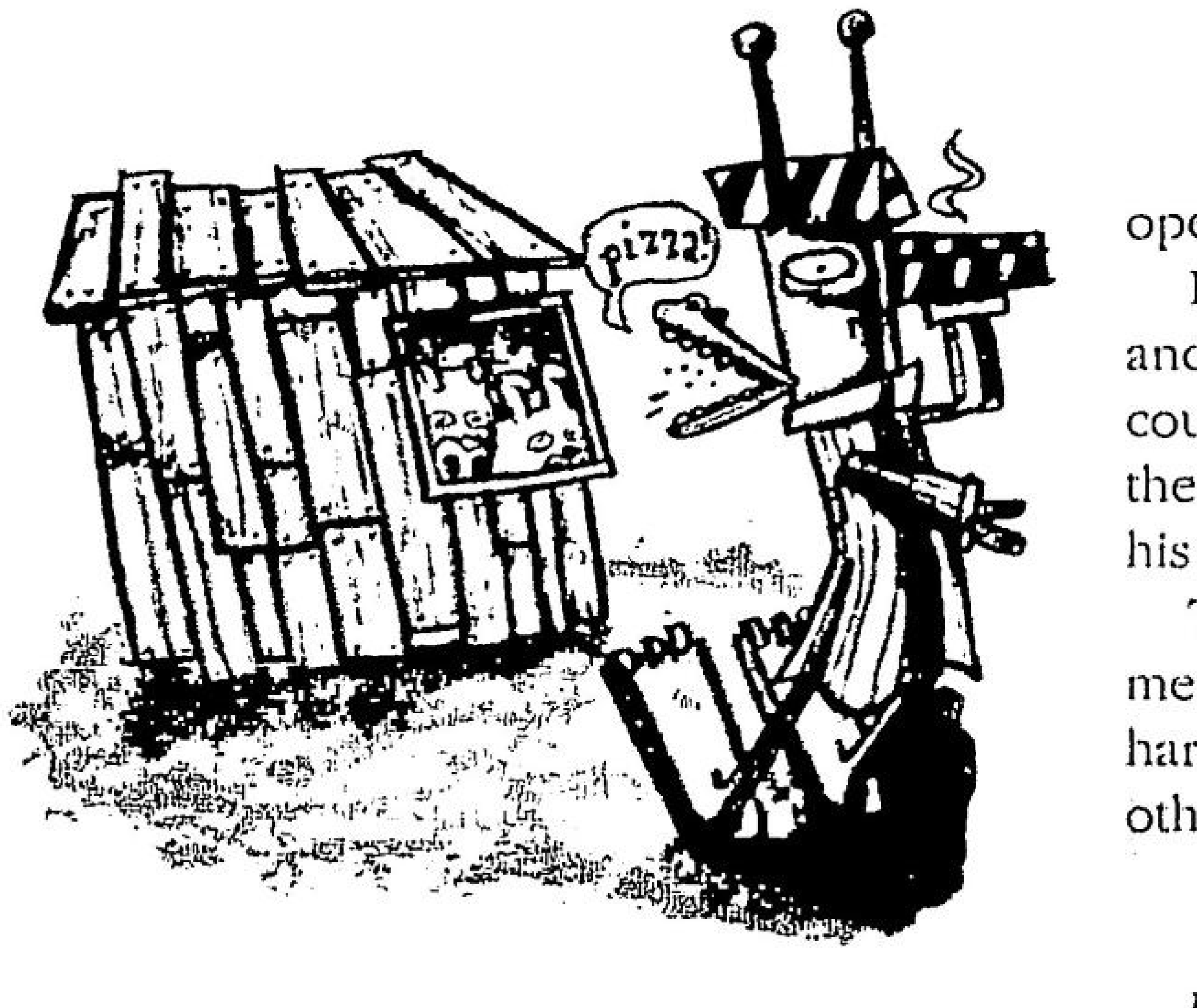
The first pig said, "Great! My spaceship is finished. I'll just paint it dark-yellow orange."

One day an alien came. He yelled to the first pig to let him in.

"No!" the little pig said.

So the alien burned the spaceship. But the first pig escaped unharmed and sped to the second pig's spacecraft.

The next day the alien overheard the first pig and the second pig order pizza, so he dressed up like a pizza man.



He went to the second pig's spaceship and told them he was the pizza man. But the two little pigs didn't open the door because, through the window, they saw his long antennae. They ran to third pig's spaceship just before the alien tore the second pig's spaceship in pieces.

The alien thought of disguising himself as a lost person, so that when pigs would open the door he would eat them.

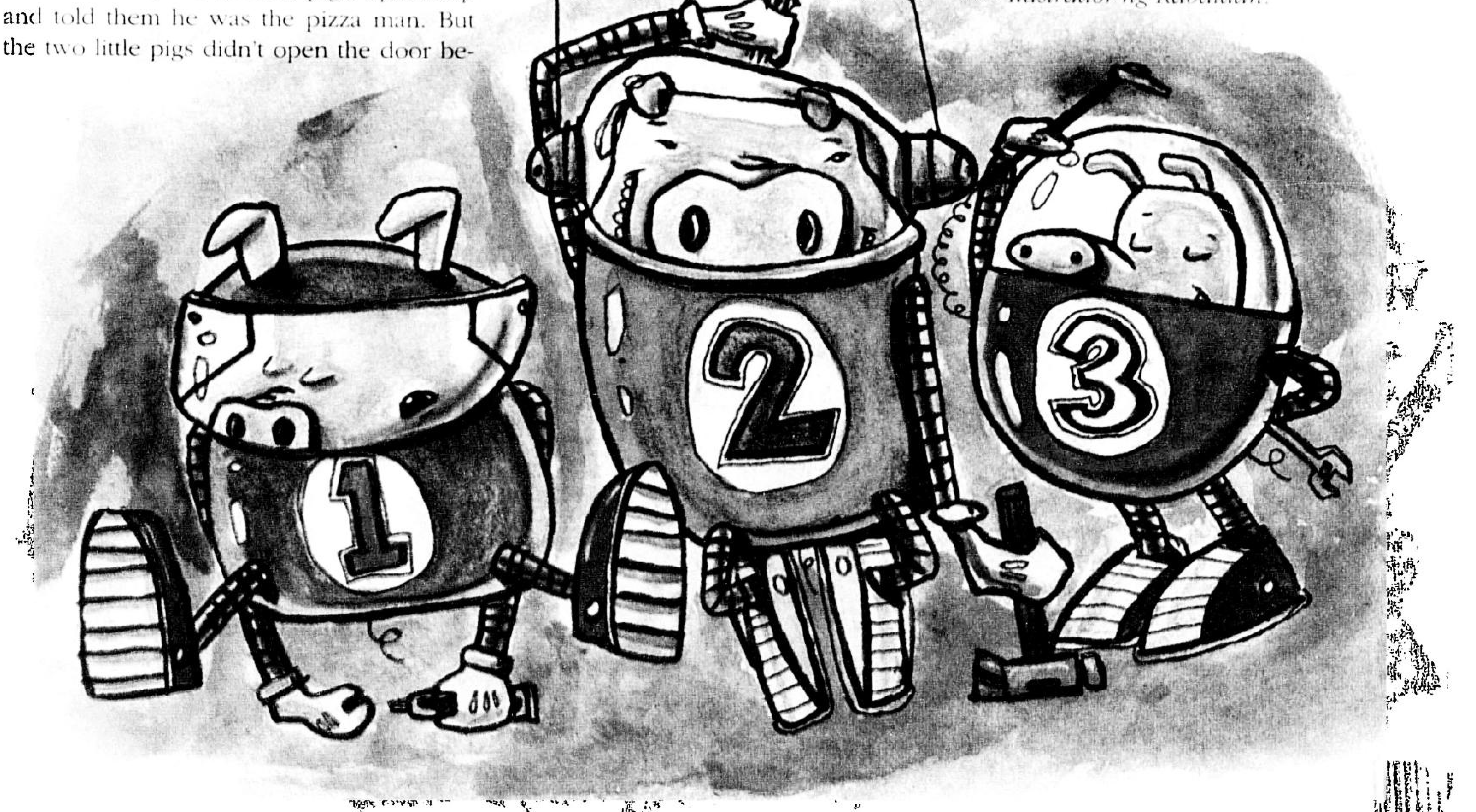
He went over to the third pig's spaceship and told them that he was lost and if they could help him. But his plan didn't work and the pigs didn't let him in because they saw his long tail.

The alien started to tear off the spaceship's metal but that didn't work. He worked so hard that he became tired and fell into another world (wormhole).

THE END

Karen *wrote this story in French in 1994. when she was 9 years old. She's turning 13 on July 18 and on Grade 8 at Maple Creek Middle in British Columbia, Canada. She dedicates this story to "my two wonderful cousins, Teah Hrovat and Iris Torres."*

Marcus *delves into different forms of art whatever it may be. He is a member of Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan.*



Why is a Grown-Up Reading MY Book?

Writer, teacher and book-lover Neni Sta. Romana Cruz enjoys children's books as much as kids do

BY CHRISTINE C. RIVERO

SOMETIMES you'll find *Tita* Neni in a chair that might be a wee bit too small for her. She'll be reading a book on a table that'll be quite small too. Slowly, the book will make her giggle and. . .heeeyyyy, wait a minute! Why does that book look like it has a lot of big pictures in it?

Ngek, what's a grown-up doing reading a kid's storybook? And in a children's library too!

"I love what I do!" says *Tita* Neni Sta. Romana Cruz, a creative writing teacher and head of the elementary school library of International School Manila.

"I can read all the children's books I want. . .it doesn't seem like work at all," she adds cheerfully.

"Addicted" to children's books

Part of her job, you see, is to choose books for the library. After spending years reading all sorts of books for kids—from the ones about things soft and furry to the people and pals whose love we always carry, stories about what's far away and dreamy to all those stories funny, wacky and nutty—*Tita* Neni just found herself 100-percent hooked. Now she reads more books for kids than books made for grown-ups.

"There are stories that are very interesting. Sometimes the illustrations are also innovative. It's worth your while to read books like those," *Tita* Neni says.

But how does she know what kids actually want to read? "It's difficult," *Tita* Neni admits, but she says the first thing she avoids are books that sound like a grown-up lecturing about values.

Frowning, *Tita* Neni points out, "Sometimes we're so hung up on passing values on to kids. For heaven's sake, can they not just have fun with a book?"

Yoohoo, Mom and Dad!

"Can they not laugh because of a ridiculous storyline? Is it a book where they will be enchanted with the words? Those are the things I look for," she says.

Other grown-ups, *Tita* Neni suggests, should try reading books for kids too. Parents, especially, ought to read stories with their kids.

Here's *Tita* Neni's message to your Mom and Dad: "You develop a special bond with the kids if you read stories with them. . .You'll be amazed! You can read Harry Potter a chapter a day together."

"Then, there's also this false notion that picture books are just for young kids," she continues, "It's not true! Some of those books have very strong messages."

Hey Moms and Dads! Here's hoping that, like *Tita* Neni, you'll enjoy what your kids are reading too.

Stories Filipinos Tell
How The Grinch Stole Christmas!
I Can Draw It Myself by Me, Myself
Mulberry Street
Boy
JESS YUSON

SHE'S A WRITER TOO. Tita Neni also wrote some books for kids and books for grown-ups too.

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate ________________.
He/She is ____ years old and is my ________________.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1)________________;
2)________________;
3)________________;
4)________________;
and
5)________________.

My nominee lives at________________.
Give him/her a call at________________ or send him/her an e-mail at________________.
By the way, I'm________________.
I'm ______ years old.
My address is ________________.
You may call me at ________________.

A Colorful Day with Pentel

BY MARIA ZOBEL CERTEZA

LAST March 26, I went to a press conference with my friend, Rhea. It was for a company called, Pentel. We arrived at the venue at around 11:45 a.m., 15 minutes before the start of the program. We were shy at first because we are the youngest among the press people present during the event. We ate lunch before the program started. The people from Pentel gave us some nifty prizes because we arrived early.

The Pentel people told us all about the history of the product. Pentel originated from Japan in the 1950s. At first, it was introduced as a black marker used in writing Japanese characters. Through the years, Pentel has created different products to help people express their talents in visual arts. But my personal favorite is their hybrid gel pen that comes in metallic and pastel colors (popularly known as "Milky" in the United States). Why? Because you can use it to create washable tattoos and nail art! You don't believe me? Why don't you try it for yourself by following these simple instructions?

Washable Tattoos

Thing's you'll need:

Pentel hybrid gel pen (any color of your choice)

Your creative imagination

Directions:

1. Choose a part of your body where you want the design to be drawn (example, on your face or on your wrist).

2. You may ask a friend to do the design or you can do the design yourself. Don't worry about the ink. Pentel hybrid gel pens are hypoallergenic. So, it's okay to use it on your skin. You can draw flowers, butterflies or ethnic designs.

Nail Art

Things you'll need:

Clear nail polish
Pentel hybrid gel pens
Your creative imagination

Directions:

1. You may want to ask help from your older sister or your friend for this project. Apply the clear nail polish on your nails and let it sit for 10 to 15 minutes until it dries.

2. Ask someone to draw the design you want. Let it again sit for a few minutes until it dries.

3. When the design has dried, apply the clear nail polish then let it sit and dry again and voila! You've got a cute nail art. It can last for a week or two because of the clear nail polish.

The artist on the press con who did the design on me and my friend's nails did it very well. Actually, while writing this article, I still have it (by the way, it is a pastel blue flower design) on my nails because it's sooo cute. (I still can't get enough of it!) It was a fun day for my friend and me because we've learned a lot of things about Pentel and how it helps to make our wold more colorful.

The shooting of rare animals will remain unknown.

Unless we shoot back.

WWF

The Inquirer joins the World Wildlife Fund in the fight to save rare animals. From now on you'll be reading more and learning more about the plight of endangered species. In our crusade to save the world, the only weapon we have is your support.

Researching Harry Potter

By Lucia Edna P. de Guzman
UPRHS, Bay, Laguna

I WOULD also like to prove that Harry Potter is not satanic so I did a little research, and here are my points:

1. The religion of witchcraft didn't start as a worship to the devil. It was more of a worship of nature, and of two supreme beings, the God and Goddess. The latter was the more important of the two.

2. The belief that witchcraft was Satanic started when three girls suddenly got an incurable sickness and the people blamed the witches. There was no possible proof that witches did it, or if they really worshipped Satan. *(World Book Encyclopedia)*

3. There is no sign of satanic worship, and any other worship for that matter, in Harry Potter books.

4. You can actually learn a lot of things if you studied the names of the characters in Harry Potter. For example:

a) Sirius—is a star in the constellation Canis Major, the Great Dog. It is the brightest star in the sky, and has a pure white color. Sirius is 26 times brighter than the Sun. It is 8.5 light years from Earth. Sirius is a binary star. Its companion, Sirius B, is a white dwarf. Sirius is also called the Dog Star (Sirius Black). *(Time Life's The Illustrated Dictionary of Space)*

b) Lupus—a constellation in the Southern Hemisphere. Also called by its common name, Wolf. (Professor Lupin) *(Brockhampton Dictionary of Science)*

c) Severus (Lucius Septimus) A.D. 146-211—Roman emperor (193-211) (Severus Shape)

d) Minerva—the Roman Goddess of wisdom, technical skill, invention and war craft. (Minerva McGonaggal)

e) Hermione—Greek legend, the daughter of Menelaus and Helen of Troy (Hermione Granger). *(Webster's New World Dictionary)*

f) Argus—the guardian Hera sent for Io. He is a creature with many eyes around his head and all over his body: these are eyes used to sleep in turn, a few at a time, while the rest keep watch. Hermes was sent to kill Argos. He put him to sleep using his magic wand and cut his head off with his sickle. Hera put his eyes on the tail feathers of the peacock, her favorite bird as a reward. (Argus Filch) *("Gods, Heroes and Men of Ancient Greece" by W.H. D. Rouse Time Magazine)*

5. There's actually nothing evil about writing about a character like Lord Voldermont. Sure, he's too evil to be true. But I bet anyone of those telenovela antagonists would turn into a "Lord Voldermont" themselves if they trained as wizards and didn't turn out to be squibs (Wizards with a very low capacity of magic).

For those who say that Harry Potter is a Satanic series of books, I suggest they read a copy of it and see for themselves.

***Lucia** is 12 years old.*

¿ThinkathoN?
BY BONG BARRAMEDA

Body Geography

TO KNOW thy self is to know thy body first. So take this quiz and find out just how familiar you are with parts of your anatomy. Given three choices, pick the one you think is described in each item.

1. The outermost layer of the skin composed of dead, flattened cells bound together by natural oils:
   (a) epidermis
   (b) dermis
   (c) melanin

2. The part of your eye concerned with controlling the amount of light entering the eyeball:
   (x) retina
   (y) iris
   (z) cornea

3. Technically known as *gluteus maximus*, the bulkiest of the 639 muscles in the human body:
   (a) thigh
   (b) buttock
   (c) chest

4. The tube through which food passes from the mouth to the stomach:
   (x) esophagus
   (y) throat
   (z) alimentary canal

5. A blood vessel receiving blood from the ventricle and leading it away from the heart and toward the other body organs:
   (a) artery
   (b) capillary
   (c) vein

6. The vascular organ of interlocking fetal and maternal tissue by which the fetus (baby) is nourished in the uterus or womb:
   (x) umbilical cord
   (y) placenta
   (z) Fallopian tube

7. One of the four conical teeth at the front of your lower and upper jaws:
   (a) canine
   (b) incisor
   (c) molar

8. Where you'll find tiny bones called stirrups, hammers and anvils:
   (x) hands
   (y) feet
   (z) ears

9. Located near the small intestine, the organ that manufactures the hormone insulin and digestive juices:
   (a) gall bladder
   (b) pancreas
   (c) kidney

10. The outer layer of the brain that contains two hemispheres and responsible for higher brain functions:
   (x) cerebellum
   (y) medulla oblongata
   (z) cerebrum

11. The long arm bone between your shoulder and elbow:
   (a) clavicle
   (b) radius
   (c) humerus

12. The "hot" body part composed of striated muscle (*orbicularis oris*) and fibroelastic connected tissue:
   (x) stomach
   (y) lips
   (z) anus

1. (a) epidermis
2. (y) iris
3. (b) buttock
4. (x) esophagus
5. (a) artery
6. (y) placenta
7. (a) canine
8. (z) ears
9. (b) pancreas
10. (z) cerebrum
11. (c) humerus
12. (y) lips

superbrain!

excellent!

FOR or By KIDS

Grandparents

BY ARYTON ELRICK GARCIA CRUCILLO
ILLUSTRATION BY LYRA A. GARCELLANO

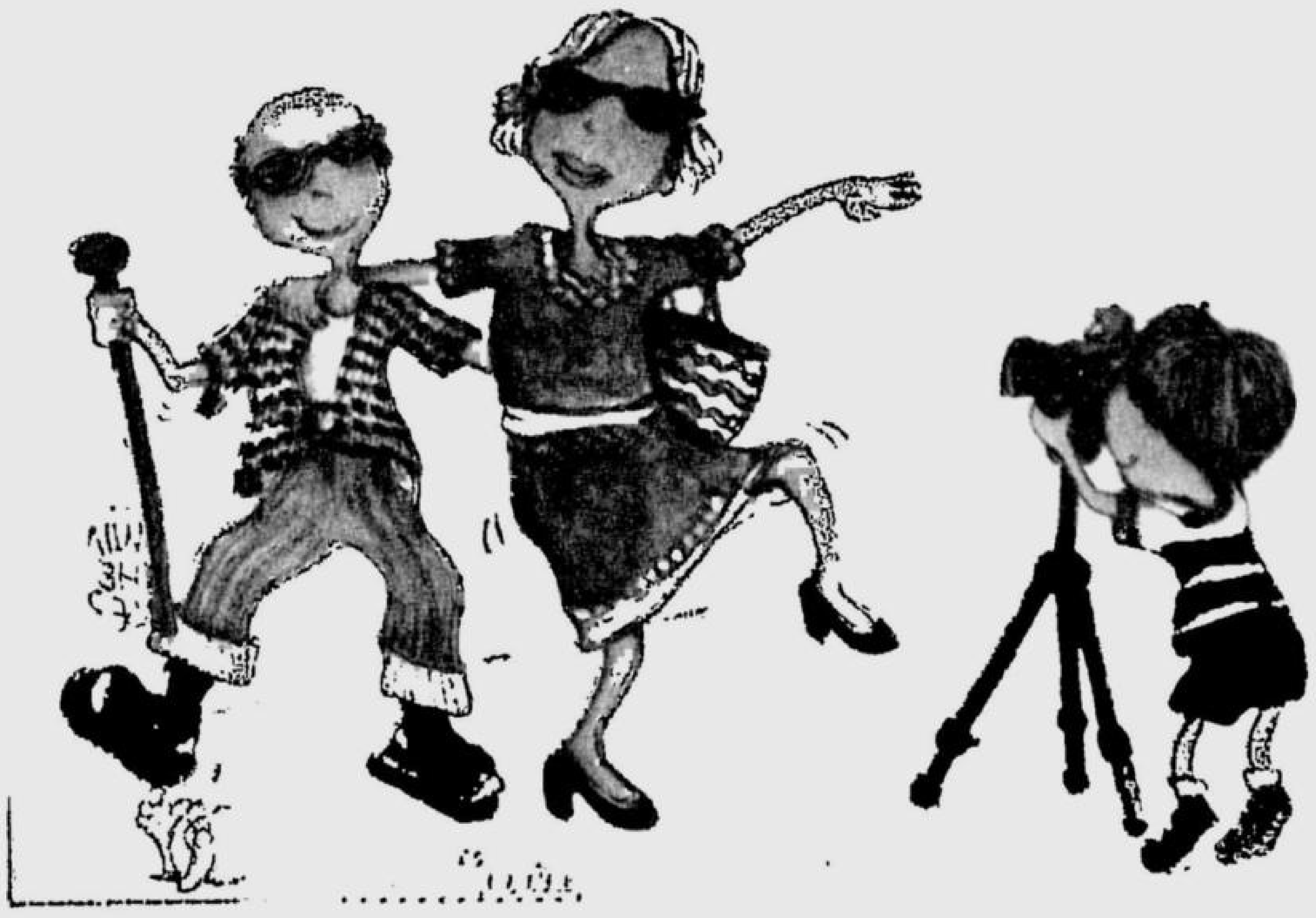
You are gracious and kind
I wonder if I could be as good as you
I hear your wonderful stories
I see two friendly faces
I want you to see me grow up
You are gracious and kind

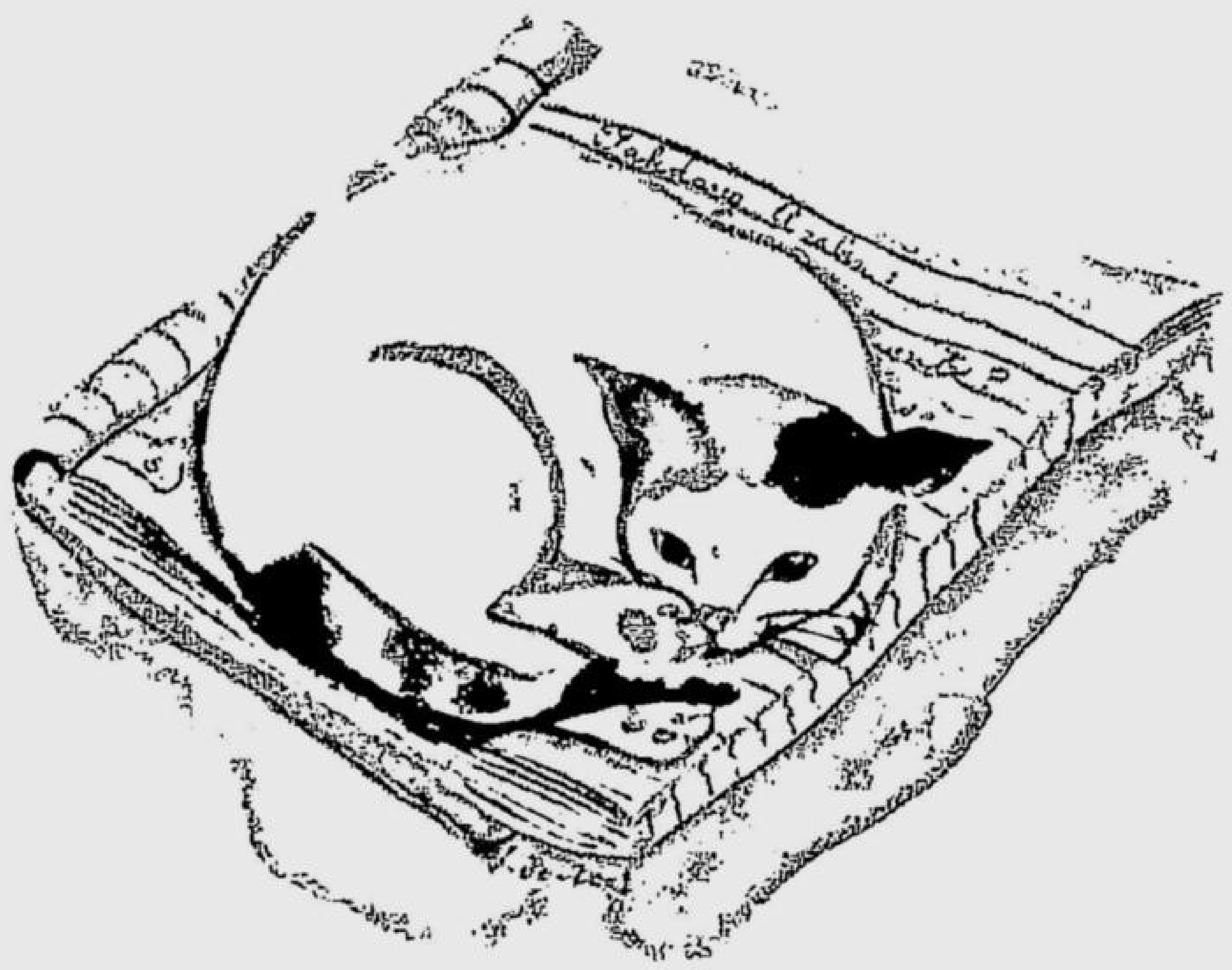
I pretend you are beside me
I feel your loving warmth
I love your great big hugs
I worry that you may be lonely
I fear you might get sick
You are gracious and kind

I understand that you are busy
I say you are the best
I dream that you are always with me
I try to be kind and loving like you
I hope you are having fun
You are gracious and kind

__Arik__, 12, is a sixth-grader at St. Bonaventure Elementary School in Huntington Beach, California. He wrote this poem during their school's "Grandparent's Day" where kids were asked to do something special for their grandparents.

__Lyra__ is the creator of "The Adventures of Atomo and Weboy." She is a member of Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan.





Kuting

NI GENARO R. GOJO CRUZ
GUHIT NI JOANNE DE LEON

Pagdating ko sa bahay,
kaagad niya akong sinasalubong;
marahang ikikiskis
ang balahibong puti sa aking binti;
ngingiyaw at magpapatalun-talon
sa mga pasemano at estante
upang matapunan ng pansin.

Saan mang sulok ng bahay ako magpunta,
kasunod ko siya.
Saan man ako magtago,
ako'y kaniyang nakikita.

At sa aking pagkain,
lagi siyang nasa ilalim ng mesa;
ikinikiskis ang kanyang balahibong puti
sa aking binti,
ngumingiyaw-ngiyaw na tila umaasam
sa tinik na pangarap
o tirang-kanin na hiling.

Nang aking lagyan ng pagkain
ang kanyang kakanan,
may lamukot ng tuwa ang sumilay
sa kanyang kristal na mata
at nagpatalun-talon siya sa sobrang saya.

Sa aking paggawa ng takdang-aralin,
nasa ilalim pa rin siya ng mesa;
ikinikiskis ang kanyang balahibong puti
sa aking binti,
at nang idikit niya ang kanyang malamig na ilong,
ako'y nakiliti.
Binuhat ko siya.
Nakipagbati't hinimas
ang kanyang balahibong puti.

Si __Genaro__ ay tubong Bulacan. Malapit sa mga bata na naging inspirasyon niya ngayon sa pagsusulat.

Si __Joanne__ ay isang premyadong ilustrador. Siya ay miyembro ng Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan.

FOR or By KIDS

My Pet Garden

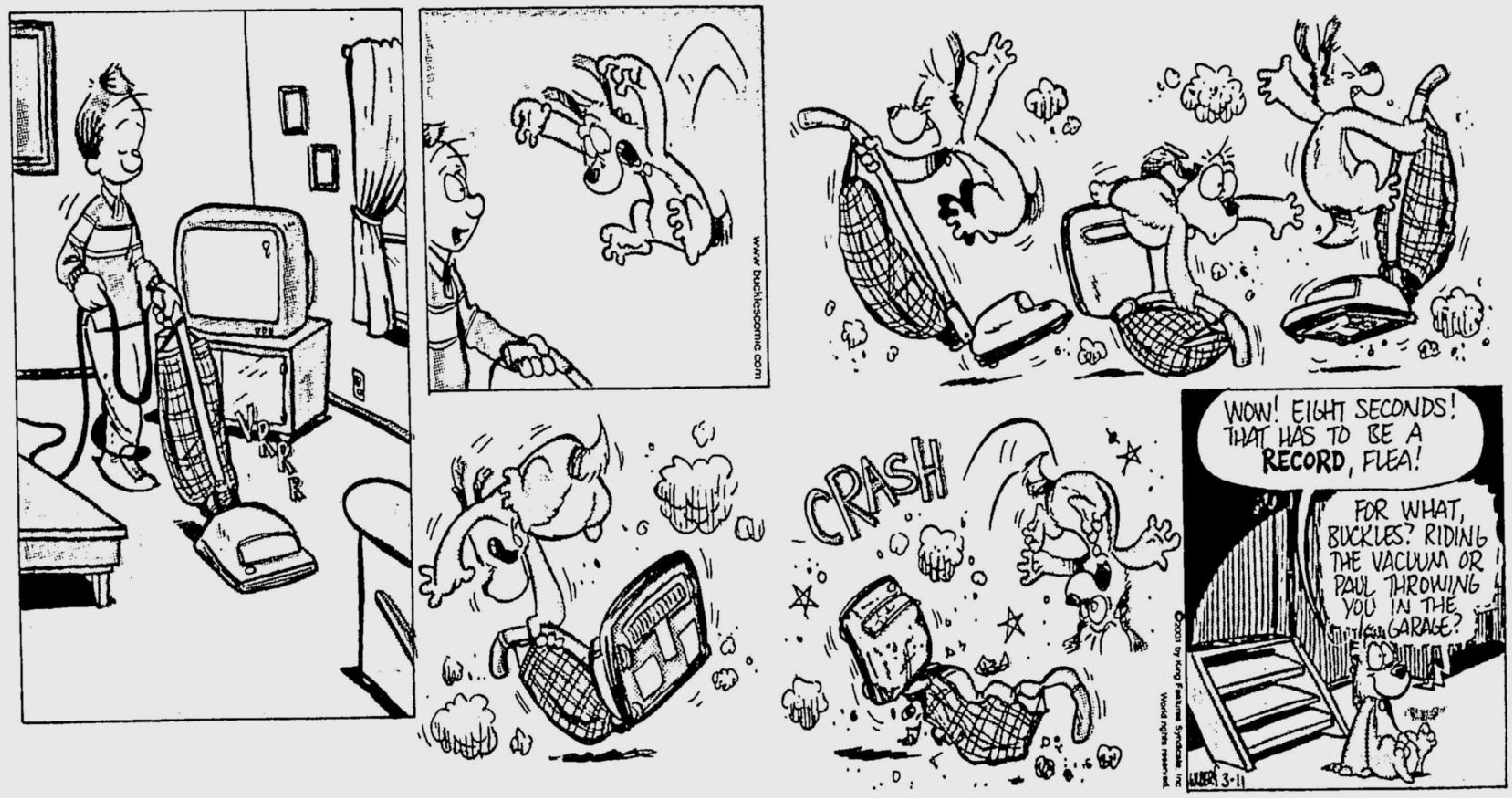
TEXT AND ART BY CLARISSE ANNE C. JURADO

Every morning I love to see
the beautiful flowers
in the garden.

***Clarisse**, 7, lives in Tondo, Manila.*

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


VRRR
www.bucklescomic.com
CRASH
WOW! EIGHT SECONDS! THAT HAS TO BE A RECORD, FLEA!
FOR WHAT, BUCKLES? RIDING THE VACUUM OR PAUL THROWING YOU IN THE GARAGE?
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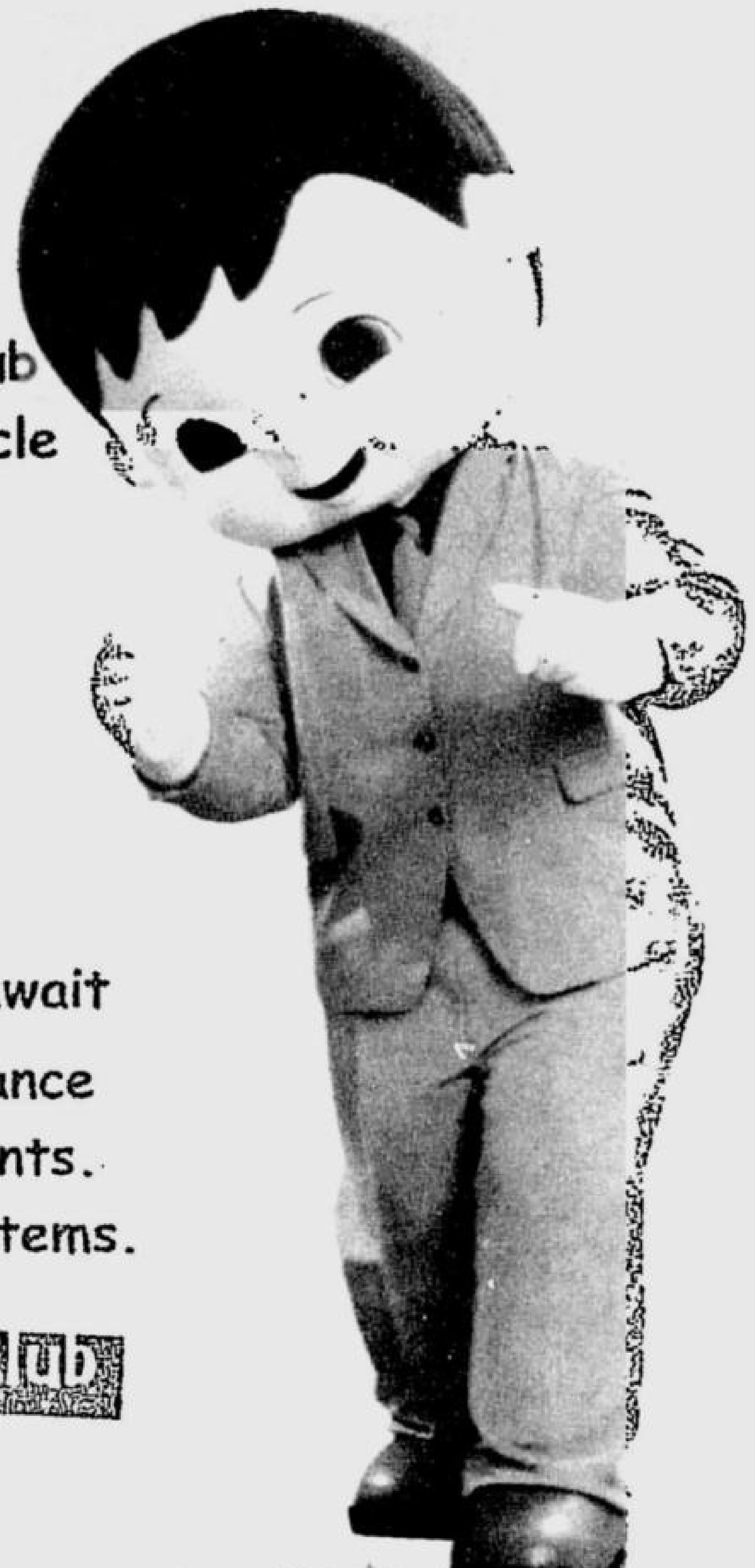
GILBERT 3-11

SUSY AND GENO
ARE LOOKING
FOR FRIENDS!

JOIN THE

BUDDY
SUSTAGEN*
CLUB
MOTHERS AND KIDS
ALL HAVING FUN!

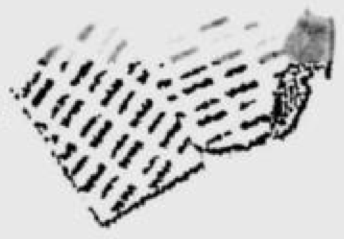


Susy & Geno want to be your friends! Join the Sustagen Buddy Club and be a part of the fun circle of friends of our lovable **Nutrition Pals**

The Sustagen Buddy Club is a one-of-a-kind club for moms and kids.

Lots of **Fun & Surprises** await both moms and kids plus a chance to participate in Sustagen events. You can also get Sustagen fun items.

So join the **Sustagen Buddy Club** and be part of all these great happenings.



How does one become a member?

It's so simple...

1. Fill out this membership form.
2. Include a Sustagen or Sustagen Junior 400g proof-of-purchase.
3. Mail the membership form and the proof-of-purchase to Sustagen P.O. Box 2531 Makati City.
4. Call the Sustagen Hotline at (02) 5519431; (02) 8312217; or 1-800-1-888-2217 (toll free) for more information.

So what are you cool moms and kids waiting for?
Get set to join the fun world of Susy and Geno!

DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0080 s. 2001.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

BUDDY SUSTAGEN CLUB MOTHERS AND KIDS ALL HAVING FUN!

for MOM

Name
Birthday
Home Address
Zip Code
Telephone
Hobbies/Interests

for KID

Name
Birthday
Home Address
Zip Code Telephone
School
Address
Grade
Hobbies/Interests